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HALIBURTON COUNTY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

The Highlander

Thursday **Dec 19 2013** | Issue 114

FREE

INSIDE: MINDEN FLIPS ON E-VOTING - SEE PG. 10



Photo by James Keller

Rachel Aldom, Annabelle Borgdorff, and Macie Bjelis play three holy angels during a Christmas play at Lakeside Baptist Church on Dec. 15. See page 34 for story.

New warden Burton makes pledge for future

By **Matthew Desrosiers**
 Editor

Haliburton County's new warden for 2014 is coming out of Highlands East.

Dave Burton, Highlands East reeve, was named warden during a special meeting of county council on Dec. 17. He replaces Algonquin Highlands reeve Carol Moffatt in the role.

Rev. Bev Hicks began the meeting with a prayer and message for county councillors as they move forward into 2014.

"I'd like to begin tonight by reflecting on the spring disaster which took place back in April," he said. "On a couple of occasions I heard it referred to as an act of God. There was an act of God, but it wasn't in the disaster itself."

Rev. Hicks said the way the county's communities came together to support one another after the flood was the real act of God during the disaster.

"It shows the heart of the people in this county, and the character of the people is also a reflection of the leadership that

this county has," he said. "Count it a blessing, an honour, and a privilege to be able to govern and lead the people of this county."

After the prayer, Highlands East deputy-reeve Suzanne Partridge put forth her nomination for Burton.

"In the past three years, I've been really pleased and impressed with the leadership Dave [Burton] has shown in Highlands East and the vision he's had in our communities," she said. "I hope he can bring that to county council."

Dysart et al deputy-reeve Bill Davis seconded the nomination, and Burton won his seat by acclamation.

In his speech, Burton acknowledged the past warden's work in the county.

"Carol [Moffatt], you've had a very successful year," he said. "I look forward to working with you, and I look forward to your support. You've certainly raised the bar here and thank you for doing that."

Burton said his role as warden will be to build his team and use their strengths

See **"Burton"** on page 6

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Highlander news

Snowmobile club asks to cross township land

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA) is seeking permission to cross a section of land owned by the Township of Minden Hills.

"The MTO [Ministry of Transportation] has requested that we receive permission from Algonquin Highlands and Minden Hills to cross this property," said Joachim Matysek, president of the HCSA, during a Dec. 12 regular council meeting.

"We're encroaching on the Old Bobcaygeon Road there, so before they can put any signage up saying there's a snowmobile crossing there, we have to have landowner permission on either side of the road."

The property is located at Noah's Lane, which is on Kushog Lake, said Matysek.

"We've already received permission from Algonquin Highlands," he said, adding that the HCSA would present the municipality the land use permit. It will "take care of any legal responsibilities" should an accident occur on the property.

"We have insurance through the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs that negates your liability."

Councillor Brigitte Gall asked Matysek if he planned on undertaking a public consultation process with nearby landowners before moving forward.

He informed council that one adjacent landowner had already been approached by the club.

"They happen to be a snowmobiler so they don't have any issues."

Councillor Ken Redpath pointed out that

this part of the road is no longer travelled by motorists.

"As I understand it, this property that you're going to be crossing is not the actual travel portion of Bobcaygeon Road," said Redpath. "It's the original, colonial road where Bobcaygeon Road used to be travelled. Is that correct?"

Matysek confirmed that this was indeed the case.

Minden Hills Reeve Barb Reid referred the matter to staff and thanked the HCSA for refocusing their efforts on Minden.

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Highlander news

R.I.D.E check drug bust

Police have confiscated one kilogram of marijuana after the drugs were found during a R.I.D.E. check in Minden Hills.

The stop occurred on Dec. 17 at County Roads 121 and 1. Justin McKelvey, 25, from Minden was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking. He is scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden on Feb. 5.

Impaired driver caught

A drunk driver is off the road thanks to a responsible citizen who called in an erratic driver to the police.

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) caught up to the driver at Highway 35 near Water Street in Minden on Dec. 13. Matthew Pernerowski, a 28-year-

OPP in brief

old man from Oshawa, was driving the vehicle. Officers arrested the man and brought him to the OPP detachment in Minden, where a breath sample showed he was five times over the legal blood alcohol limit.

Pernerowski has been charged with impaired operation of a motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with over 80 mg of alcohol in 100 mg of blood, operating a motor vehicle with an open container of liquor, and operating a motor vehicle without insurance.

OPP community services officer Paul Potter said the community has been helpful in getting impaired drivers off the road.

"Members of our community are showing great concern regarding drinking and driving," he said. "It is evident that they are doing their part in making our highways safer, especially during the holiday season."

Pernerowski will appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden on Jan. 8.

Fleming adds courses

By Matthew Desrosiers
Editor

Fleming College has announced two new programs for its Haliburton campus to be launched in the new year.

The first, Studio Process Advancement, is a four-month graduate certificate program.

Sandra Dupret, dean of the Haliburton School of the Arts, said students will work independently on a body of work with the guidance and mentorship of professional artists.

"Artists sometimes, especially when they have just come out of an undergrad or diploma program, have all these ideas and knowledge and need time to create a body of work. This gives them a four-month body of time in the studio."

The students will have 300 hours of studio time, she said.

"They can build a professional portfolio with it. They apply for exhibitions and need a cohesive body of work."

As part of the program, the students will have the option to take three of the summer courses as well.

Dupret said because the school will have diverse artists working in different mediums, students will meet with a coordinator before the program starts to talk about what they'd like to work on.

The second program is Integrated Design, and was created by Toronto-based artist and designer Barr Gilmore.

"He's a fairly well-established designer ... in Toronto," she said. "[He's] very well-connected and understands many

facets of design work, not just graphic design but how to use different materials as a component of design, which is really what we wanted this program to be about."

Originally the plan was to build a graphics design program, but after researching other colleges they discovered 17 other similar programs existed. There was, however, a gap to be filled in general design thinking versus just graphic design, Dupret said.

"Design thinking is a much broader topic to explore."

Jewellery, glass-blowing, ceramics, and other tactile elements are all used as part of design. Students will be exposed to various categories of design like graphic, fashion, architecture and more.

"It's a unique [program] too in the college system," she said. "It's really meant to be a pathway program."

As part of Integrated Design, students will choose one of the school's specialty certificates in ceramics, for example.

"We're hoping students who take this program will get so engaged in the discipline of design and want to go further and take a pathway into more post-secondary education," said Dupret.

"Integrated Design is an important program that will provide our students studying in our specialty certificates the option of focusing their medium in a design stream and increase their opportunities after graduation."

Studio Process Advancement will launch in May 2014, while Integrated Design is scheduled for September, 2014.

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Editorial opinion

Christmas travel

All the Christmas gifts are stacked in a corner of my house. They're wrapped and ready to go.

They aren't going under my tree – partly because it's still sitting in its box in the hallway, depressingly undecorated – rather, they will be packed up into a car with two dogs, doggy crates, travel bags, and a beautiful girlfriend, destined for an out-of-town Christmas.

That's right, folks. I'm leaving the Highlands for Christmas again this year.

I find myself in an interesting situation. As one part of an as-serious-as-it-gets-before-engagement relationship, I now belong to two families. We love both and want to be with them for Christmas, but they live in different cities nearly three hours apart. Seeing as we can't be in two places at once, the holidays are always an interesting proposition.

So we pack up and plan complicated travel schedules to maximize our time away. Last year, we spent 10 days away from home. The holiday newspaper was put to bed and the next morning, with only a few hours of sleep, we hit the road. By the time we got home, it was less than 12 hours before work started again.

Not much of a holiday.

Don't get me wrong, I'm no Grinch. We travel and do what we do because we enjoy it, as stressful as it is at times. I like being there on Christmas morning as the people I love open their presents, and I enjoy even more sitting around the table with family talking about Christmases past and fond memories.

And so we will continue to make our plans and push our holiday time to the max so we can see everyone we care about, our two 50-plus pound dogs in tow.

There are some people in Haliburton County, however, who don't do the travel thing to see family this time of year. Some can't afford to, and others don't really want or feel the need to. Thankfully, where we live, that doesn't mean they have to spend the time alone.

This Christmas day, members of the Wilberforce community are hosting a free to everyone and anyone dinner, complete with music and a play area for kids so the whole family can come out. It's not aimed at those with limited financial means, rather the organizers want the whole community to come and be together on Christmas – rich or poor, with family or alone, all are welcome.

McKeck's in Haliburton is doing the same thing by offering a free Christmas lunch on Dec. 25, and with all the other community events going on around here – while I'm away unfortunately – there's no reason anyone needs to miss out on special times with friends and family at Christmas.

Around here, communities are like families. Neighbours worry and care about you, offer relationship advice even when it's not asked for, and even get irrationally angry with you at times – the formula for any good Christmas season.

If you don't have family to be with this time of year, you will always have your community. It's why I love it here, and why, when I finally get tired of losing sleep over Christmas travel plans, I'll always have family here at home.

Merry Christmas.



By Matthew Desrosiers

Busy week

It's been a busy week.

On Monday, The Highlander joined forces with the Haliburton Echo and Minden Times, plus Bancroft This Week and Barry's Bay This Week, under the banner of Maple Key Media.

Our first objective is to get all our publications operating smoothly. Any time you combine businesses, especially when transferring from a large corporation to a small company, there will be unforeseen bumps in the road. The technical challenge of returning production, distribution, ad design, layout, subscriptions and many other functions to the Echo building on Highland Street is huge. We will have some glitches, make some mistakes, and we ask for your patience during the process. I'd like to thank Sun Media for their gracious assistance during this transition.

The Haliburton Echo, Minden Times and The Highlander will continue to cover the institutions and people you care about: our hospitals, schools, town councils, non-profits, events and small businesses. We will be able to expand our reporting of county news, arts and entertainment and the environment, as well as coverage of Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East. Additional effort will be put into stories and features that engage our summer population with our communities and economy.

If the word *monopoly* has come to mind, I understand. I hate monopolies too. But the opposite of monopoly is a market in which there must be winners and losers. In the newspaper industry, this has meant extreme competition and, for those who work in journalism, not a high level of job security. By consolidating these papers, we are ensuring that they can continue. Every employee formerly with Sun Media has been offered a position with Maple Key. Our employees will have greater certainty in their futures, and the community in the ability of its papers to provide complete and accurate coverage.

Our clients will always have choices – two outstanding radio stations among them and a variety of speciality publications – we cannot, and will not, ever take them for granted.

The payoff of course will be that our local newspapers will be designed and put together right here in Haliburton. We'll be better able to handle your last-minute changes, create papers with personalities that reflect our communities, and our clients will know that their ad dollars are continuing to support local jobs and are being recycled into the local economy.

This was not an easy or obvious decision for me. The opportunity was presented relatively recently, and my options were to leave the former-Sun Media papers to an uncertain future; or, to take a leap of faith and ensure that all the papers, and all their employees, remain part of this community. It was not something I had anticipated or tried to effect.

Change in a small community is never easy; resilience is what holds us together. The ownership of these papers may have changed, but their purpose and commitment to the community will continue and grow. We will continue to fight for the issues important to

our readers, to support local businesses, to sponsor organizations and events, to stand up for rural values, to help charities raise funds and to provide our communities with comprehensive and quality coverage of the people and events that matter to us here.

And *here* is what this is about. I moved here permanently only five years ago. In that short time, I have made more friends, had more positive experiences and more fulfilment through volunteerism than in the previous 40. My days are filled seeing hard-working, upstanding, passionate people who also love the Highlands, and it is an existence for which I am incredibly grateful. I am also grateful for the acceptance this community has shown, not just to me but to the thousands of people who live here, a diversity of talents and traits I've never seen anywhere else.

I realize this is an awesome responsibility. The Echo will celebrate its 130th birthday in 2014. It is one of the most award-winning community newspapers in Canada with a venerable history. That is a tradition we should all want to see continue. To succeed, we must maintain your trust and the trust of the business community. Our prices will remain unchanged in 2014; our sponsorships and support to non-profit organizations will expand, starting with increasing the Echo/Times non-profit discount to match that of The Highlander.

The Highlander staff have been outstanding in helping manage the chaos of the last few days and in building that paper to where it is now. And perhaps most of all, I'd like to thank the staff of the Echo, Times, Bancroft and Barry's Bay. This is very difficult for them, and their enthusiasm and willingness to accept the future with open minds is highly impressive. It speaks to the hard work and strength of character that built these publications into trusted touchstones.

We are sorry that Jenn Watt and Chad Ingram have decided not to join us. Both are talented journalists who have contributed immensely to the community and that contribution will be missed by our readers. We were looking forward to their help in this transition and with taking the Echo and Times forward. It was, however, their decision alone and we respect that. Steve Galea has also decided not to participate, meaning a few less chuckles every week for now. We wish all of them the very best and thank them for the respect and affection they have earned for their papers from so many of our readers.

This will be my last column for the foreseeable future. I think you've heard enough from me and my focus has to be on managing the business of the papers. I've very much appreciated your feedback and encouragement and know that our editors will continue to provide interesting and provocative opinions. I didn't expect to go out with a last column about saucer-ears, but there you go: the future tends to be unpredictable.

And so it is.



By Bram Lebo

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Letters to the editor

Use money to staff residence

Dear editor,

Hats off to Dr. Stephenson. Her recent letter (see ‘Residents happy with LTC’, The Highlander issue 111, pg. 5) eloquently says what many residents’ families feel. Once again the government/ministry solves every funding cut with providing more inspectors. Use the funds towards staffing the residence properly and stop running around with paper and pens. There are too many chiefs and not enough workers.

I challenge the person(s) responsible for the information given to the newspaper to follow a PSW for a full shift and see if you still think staffing is not a problem. You can contact me when you are ready and I will get my paper and pen. Oh yes, I have a pedometer to attach to your leg.

C. Stewart,
Haliburton

Polling stations only true secret vote

Dear editor,

Back in November I wrote a letter to the editor congratulating the council (some of them) for listening to their constituents regarding the voting method. I guess I spoke too soon.

The reeve and CAO/clerk/EDO were not amused at the choice of no Internet/telephone voting so they had the motion reversed at the recent council meeting. Oh yes, I should be pleased that they will have a polling station for those of us not comfortable with electronic voting, unless this is changed at the next meeting.

Does the reeve have the right to do this after the decision was made in a vote by council? Does the CAO/clerk/EDO have the right to dictate to the council the method she wants just because she did this in Peterborough? We are not Peterborough but a small rural township with some potential, eligible 12,410 voters according to the 2010 election stats. Why do we need a tabulator when staff can do the count with free scrutineers to verify it?

Why does councillor Redpath insist that voting in polling stations is going back 100 years when our biggest city uses polling stations? Both my children and many of my seasonal neighbours vote at polling stations.

Why is councillor Clarke now wanting further discussion when he was so adamant on electronic voting at the meeting back in November, which I attended?

The CAO raised the mention of Internet/telephone voting back in September. Now, four months later, they are still discussing it. Good thing elections only come every four years. Hopefully they will have an answer by October. May I suggest that we all line up at their one or two polling stations (if they keep them) to show them how we really prefer to vote. In my opinion it is the only true democratic and secret method of voting, something I take very seriously.

Lois Rigney
Minden Hills

Correction

In ‘And that has made all the difference’ (see The Highlander issue 113, pg. 16), the article’s sub-headline read that April Martin was being treated for cancer. Martin does not, and did not, have cancer. The Highlander regrets this error.

Photo of the week

A photograph showing a person riding a unicycle in a snowy environment. The person is wearing a dark jacket and a hat. In the background, there is a white pickup truck parked in the snow. The scene appears to be outdoors, possibly in a parking lot or a street covered in snow.

Uni-quely Haliburton.

Photo by Nanci Hunter

I’m constantly shovelling S...


Two weeks, two countries, two very different climates but when it all comes down to it, there is one word to describe my main occupation of the past fortnight: shovelling.

As you may know, I took a trip to fairer climes recently. While riding ostriches may have been an unusual aside, my main task on my holidays was chief sandcastle maker. I must have spent at least four hours of every day on my hands and knees, red plastic shovel in hand, digging trenches, tunnels and moats around and under a large pile of sand (which I had laboriously scraped with shovel and bleeding fingers from the coral and stone-filled beach) that had been patted into a rough pile and adorned at its tip with a flag.

Little Z loved the castle making, almost as much as he loved the castle breaking. I’d slave away scraping together a giant mound of sand before carefully constructing walls and the aforementioned moats around my ‘castle’, all the while keeping an eye on the lapping waves which may at any moment see fit to invade my little kingdom. My son would help a little, hinder a plenty, usually with buckets of water over the mound or me, and watch smugly a lot. Then, just as I was starting to look like I might be finishing my latest sand mound masterpiece, he’d stomp through it shouting with glee about being some ‘great-big-castle-crasher monster’. My castle would be razed to ruins within seconds even before I’d had the satisfaction of seeing its moats filled with water or decorating it with shells.

I tired of building castles relatively slowly, if only because I couldn’t help but love the wicked smile that Little Z would get as he envisaged smashing my latest creation to pieces. I even took to defending my castles from him. A bucket of seawater will hold a ‘great-big-castle-crasher monster’ at bay for quite a while, it seems. The trouble is, castle protection is thirsty work and the clink of an ice cold beer bottle being carried back from the beach bar was so often my downfall.

TheOutsider

A portrait of a man with a beard and a fur hat, looking directly at the camera.

By Will Jones

No worries about needing an ice cold beer now that I’m back in Canada though, are there? But, while I may be changing tipples, to say a hot toddy or two, the red shovel still comes in handy. Not Little Z’s beach toy I should clarify but the biggest baddest snow shovel I could find.

My little son was awestruck when he saw it: a double handle and giant plastic blade that I can easily scoop him up inside. “Whoa, daddy, that’s the biggest shovel in the world,” he stuttered as I took it from the car. “I want one, too!”

I smiled a rueful smile and told him I wished I could buy him one now, and that he could actually use it to help me now. Then I assured him that as soon as he could wield a big snow shovel like daddy he’d be helping me every time I asked.

“Yeah, yeah, me and you digging snow daddy. I can’t wait,” he chimed. Now it was my turn to smile the wicked smile.

So from sand to snow shovelling it is. Pretty similar really. I scrape snow into a giant pile at the side of the driveway. I even pat it down sometimes. The digging of moats seems somewhat redundant, seeing as how any invading monsters could simply walk across the frozen water within.

And, with average daily highs hitting minus 15, mummy isn’t too crazy about our own little monster doing too much stomping and smashing at the moment, which is good because it cuts down on the hours I have to stand guard.

The return from sand to snow, from high to low, from Caribbean to Canada has been abrupt but it’s also been welcome. I love sunny seaside holidays but I love crisp Canadian winters more and my castles and forts last longer because there is no tide.

I guess I should get a flag for the top of my latest snow-shovelled creation though, just to taunt the little monster whenever he looks out of the window.

Highlander opinion

Eye on the street: *What are your plans for Christmas?*



Adam Brady

Haliburton

I am spending it with family at my parents' home in Keswick. Then I am going skiing at Collingwood. New Year's Day is overrated.

Jack Cox

Haliburton

Brunch and gift opening at my daughter's. Cooking the turkey in the afternoon and having dinner with family and a few friends.



Patricia Wright

Haliburton

We will be going to see our two daughters. Visiting with one for a few days and then seeing the other for a good visit.



Patti Brown

Dundas

Spending time with family and enjoying lots of good food and the Christmas music. Then playing board games for the rest of the day.



Barb Taylor

Eagle Lake

To be with our family. They are all coming up so we are blessed. Also volunteering at The Shepherds Table at Lakeside Baptist Church and all are welcome.

Photos and interviews by Walt Griffin

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Burton to take on OPP costs

Continued from page 1

to tackle issues that are important to the county.

"Consulting and working with lower tiers is so important, [and] addressing and tackling OPP costs," he said. "That's something that's really going to put us behind the eight-ball if we don't."

County council will continue to push the issue, along with support from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Warden's Caucus, he said.

Other issues Burton identified were collaborating with the Trent-Severn Waterway to protect the county's interests, identifying efficiencies in existing systems so the county can do more with less, and continuing to develop the county's tourism and marketing strategies.

"There are a number of issues out



Photo by Matthew Desrosiers

The 2014 Haliburton County Council. From left are Cheryl Murdoch, Bill Davis, Murray Fearrey, Barb Reid, Dave Burton, Suzanne Partridge, Liz Danielsen, and Carol Moffatt.

there," he said. "They're complex, [but] I believe the solutions are here. We have the experience around this table, we have the technology, we have the knowledge, and we certainly have the willpower to move

forward."

"I'm going to make a pledge that I will bring all my best efforts forward, but I'll need you [councillors] to bring all your best efforts to me."



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Highlander news

Minden Hills opposes new OPP billing model

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

Minden Hills councillors agree: the doubling of policing costs is going to leave the township in a sticky situation.

During a Dec. 12 council meeting, CAO Nancy Wright-Laking provided information to councillors about the new billing model for OPP policing services.

Currently, the cost for policing services in the township amounts to \$179 per household. It has been estimated that this

amount will jump to \$369 per household, which represents a \$1.1 million increase.

"It could be more or it could be less," said Wright-Laking. "It depends on where we fit into the equation, but it's looking more like rural areas will see a significant increase under this new billing structure."

Minden Hills Reeve Barb Reid pointed out that policing costs already represent 20 per cent of the overall budget.

"To go to 40 per cent means we shut down the roads department," she said jokingly. "It's huge. There's lots of

conversation happening at the county level about alternatives and options."

Wright-Laking and councillor Ken Redpath attended an information session about the proposed billing model in November. There they learned that through the current deployment model, cost recovery is based on a percentage of detachment workload, actual detachment staffing levels, wage and benefits, and a cost recovery for expenditures.

The new model is comprised of two components: a base service level, which is

a fixed cost, and calls for service, which is a variable cost.

Although more details still need to emerge, Reid asked council if they would be interested in opposing the new model by supporting a petition from the Township of Tay.

"[The Municipality of] Dysart [et al] has supported Tay Township's resolution," said Reid. "I'd also like to know if this council would like to express concern about what's being proposed by the OPP." Council agreed to support the petition.

Algonquin Highlands to handle septic inspections

By Lisa Harrison
Contributing writer

Algonquin Highlands will absorb responsibility for new septic installation inspections internally and host the training course for county municipalities in January.

The municipalities have been outsourcing the inspections to the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR), which recently announced it will discontinue those services Dec. 31. The inspections are conducted under Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code.

County councillors and the chief bylaw officers (CBOs) and chief administrative officers (CAOs) for the municipalities met in November to discuss the situation with

an HKPR representative.

The main reason HKPR is discontinuing services is that permits have been declining over the past five years, CAO Angie Bird told Algonquin Highlands council. The township has had 335 permits in the past five years and HKPR received approximately 200 requests for information in that period.

"At this point we don't see the need to hire someone," said Bird, explaining the bylaw department will assume responsibility for inspections and staff will "find a home" for the administrative part of the process, incorporating an existing township database. However, she reported the file transfers from HKPR will require additional administrative work during the transition because HKPR does not use property roll numbers as permit

identifiers.

Regarding training, Bird reported the Township of Lake of Bays does its own inspections, CBO Steve Watson is a course facilitator, and Watson is willing to conduct training for county municipalities in January at a cost of \$300 per day plus mileage expenses. Bird proposed Algonquin Highlands host training on behalf of the other municipalities to save on mileage expenses. She reported ideally the one-week course would be conducted in time for trainees to take the province's Jan. 23 exam for Part 8 inspection certification.

Council agreed with Bird's recommendations and will formally ask HKPR to provide the contract extension to June 30.

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Fire Calendar Winners

Week of December 16
Kerriann Griffin and Kathanne Cornfield

Meetings and Events

December 19
9:00am, Special meeting of Council,
Minden Council Chambers
(public session 10:00 am)

December 24
11:30 am, Administration Building
CLOSED for the Holidays

January 2
8:30 am, Administration Building, OPEN

8:30 am, Nomination period begins for the
2014 Municipal Election, Clerk's Office,
administration building

January 9
7:00 pm, Lochlin Community Centre Advisory
Committee meeting, Lochlin Community Centre

January 16
9:00 am, Budget Standing Committee meeting,
Minden Council Chambers

Holiday Hours of Operation

Administration Building and
Roads Department Satellite Office

Open Dec 24 - 8:30am to 11:30am
Closed Dec 25 to Jan 1st
Open Jan 2 - 8:30am to 4:30pm

Cultural Centre
CLOSED Dec 23 to Jan 6

OPEN Jan 7 - 10:00 am

Landfill Sites & Transfer Stations

Will be CLOSED Christmas Day & New Year's Day
Regular winter dates and
times will apply otherwise

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Agnes Jamieson Gallery

A Different Way
Saturday, January 11 at 1:00 pm
Please join us for the
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January 7 to March 1, 2014

"A Different Way" is an exhibition highlighting the beauty
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surroundings.

To help illustrate this point, "A Different Way" will include
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Susan Murray's private collection, the Minden Hills Museum
collection and selected rugs from Ontario and Minden Rug
Hooking Guilds.

Waste-not, Want-not Symposium
February 7 to 8, 2014

This symposium will involve a series of documentaries on
ways to live with less. This will include information on Tiny
Homes phenomena, how to live without money, how to live
off your land, 'the urban farm' and how to live self-sufficiently.
Workshops and talks will also be scheduled. Follow the
Cultural Centre website: www.mindenculturalcentre.com for
exact times of events.

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FEE: January - March 2014 \$20pp includes supplies.
If you are interested please contact the Agnes Jamieson
Gallery 705-286-3763.

Minden Hills Cultural Centre Membership
Advantages:

- FREE entrance to the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, Minden Hills Museum and Nature's Place 12 exhibitions
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- Advance notice of and registration for events and workshops with quarterly newsletter and e-blasts
- Opportunity to participate in the annual Member's Show at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery
- Discounts on events and workshops as designated

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Wed Jan 1 CLOSED

Sun Jan 5 12:00pm – 2:00pm

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Please call 705-286-1936 for updates to the schedule

Christmas
In the
Highlands



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See pages 19 & 33 for an additional ads

Highlander news



By Matthew Desrosiers

Rotary bridge toll raises \$2,000

The Rotary Club of Minden has donated \$2,000 to the Minden Food Bank from money they raised during their bridge toll back in July. Pictured above from left are Joanna Penfold, Rick Ratcliffe, Jim McMahon, Minden Food Bank chair Barbara Walford-Davis, Minden Rotary Club president Jim Fox, Bill Obee, and Brent Devolin.



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By Matthew Desrosiers

Four-Wheelers' hospital fundraising tops \$47,000

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) has received a \$3,928 donation from the Ontario Federation of Four-Wheel Drive Recreationists (OF4WDR). Since 2001, the organization has donated \$47,123.25 to HHHSF, including this year's donation. The funds were raised in August during the organizations annual Camp NL, a family weekend of four-wheeling in the Highlands. All proceeds from the raffle were given to HHHSF. Pictured above, from left, are Adrian Collison, manager of Just Jeeps who are Camp NL's headline sponsor; Aaron Darling, OF4WDR member; Lucy Darling and Alex Muir; Chris Muir, OF4WDR director; Carol Ann Darling, OF4WDR director; Dale Walker, HHHSF executive director; and Peter Oylar, HHHSF chair.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas, and all the best in the New Year!

Laurie Scott, M.P.P.
Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Brock

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Highlander news

Minden reverses course on e-voting

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

Minden Hills councillors have changed their minds about voting methods for the 2014 municipal election. Instead of vote-by-mail, constituents will either cast their ballots online, by telephone or at two polling stations at the township office.

At a Nov. 14 special council meeting, councillors voted down a motion to adopt Internet and telephone voting. However, the majority of council made it clear they were in favour of vote-by-mail – a method used in the 2010 election.

During the Dec. 12 regular meeting, CAO Nancy Wright-Laking recommended that council adopt the vote-by-mail method. She also requested that tabulators be used to count the votes.

In a recorded vote of three to two, councillors Brigitte Gall, Larry Clarke and Jean Neville opposed the motion to adopt vote-by-mail while Deputy Reeve Cheryl Murdoch and Ken Redpath voted in favour.

“OK, so this is interesting,” said Minden Hills Reeve Barb Reid. “If we move to defeat this motion, we have no method of voting.”

Neville wasn’t opposed to vote-by-mail, but expressed concern over additional staffing and equipment costs.

“That part I’m still not comfortable with,” she said, questioning the significant increase.

The 2010 election cost the township approximately \$38,000, according to Wright-Laking. The current election budget stands at \$40,000, but tabulating equipment and staffing costs will add approximately \$20,000 to that amount.

“The motion on the floor is for alternate voting methods,” explained Wright-Laking. “That is what council can vote on. The actual writing of the election, staffing, etc. is decided by the clerk of the

municipality.”

Wright-Laking told councillors that should they defeat the motion before them, a paper ballot would be made available at voting locations for the electorate.

Gall asked if it would be possible to cut down on costs by renting tabulating equipment or sharing with another municipality.

Redpath suggested that his fellow councillors “think long and hard about this.”

“If we defeat this motion we’re going back 100 years, and we’re disenfranchising two thirds of the voters in this municipality,” he said. “Is that what this council wants to do?”

Councillor Larry Clarke expressed his disapproval of vote-by-mail, but said that staff should be given the proper tools to handle the extra workload.

“We’ve already stepped back with regard to the mail-in,” he said. “The tabulators are at least meeting the needs of staff part way. If we’re not going with a modern, electronic vote, then at least we’re giving them some tools to work with so that they’re not working every weekend.”

Clarke added that the CAO should be able to decide how the election needs to be run.

“I think that while this council has the power to determine the method of voting, it’s up to the clerk to decide how she is going to run the election,” he said.

Like Neville, Gall was also concerned about the extra costs that the township would incur. She reminded councillors that a significant portion of residents don’t feel comfortable with alternative voting methods.

“As a member of this council, I and other members requested to roll out some education pieces to our municipality to give them assurance of what we were going to teach them,” she said, referring to

online voting.

“If they’re not comfortable with an electronic voting method, what’s always been on the table is coming in to the municipal office on two days and voting in a traditional way,” responded Reid.

“What we’re talking about here is the alternate method. Is it going to be a mail-in ballot? Or is it going to be Internet and telephone?”

That, I think, is a conversation worth revisiting.”

Clarke said his discussions with constituents have been “180 degrees” from what Gall has experienced.

“I’ve talked to a lot of people who thought that being able to vote at home was a lot more inclusive than having to go through the complexity of the mail-in ballot,” he said.

Deputy Reeve Cheryl Murdoch called the mail-in option “the middle ground” for seasonal and permanent residents.

“There is that piece of paper – if you don’t want to mail it in you can bring it to the municipal office,” she said.

“I think that gives everyone a clear view and a clear chance of getting out there and casting their vote.”

Reid asked Gall if she would be satisfied with a decision to adopt Internet and telephone voting with an education component in place.

“There’s certainly lots of time to educate people about how to use the methods,” she said.

Gall was in favour of Reid’s proposition. Redpath also thought Gall’s suggestion was a good one.

“It’s a good compromise,” he said.

Wright-Laking pointed out that it was always her intention to keep the public informed about voting methods.

“There would be an extensive education and communication process,” she said.

Councillor Lisa Schell, who was absent due to undergoing surgery the previous day, told The Highlander she was disappointed that council reversed their decision.

“I am disappointed that the item was reopened and the decision reversed,” said Schell. “I was voting for mail-in ballots as that was what the people of Ward 1 told me they wanted. However, if a majority of council feels online and telephone voting is the way to go, I am very happy they acknowledged those who had voiced their concerns and are offering two polling stations.”

Reid first put forward a motion to reconsider the motion presented to them. After receiving council’s approval, she made a motion to adopt a paper ballot with an advanced poll and an election day poll. Internet and telephone voting were chosen as the alternative methods.

If we defeat this motion we’re going back 100 years, and we’re disenfranchising two thirds of the voters in this municipality. Is that what this council wants to do?

Ken Redpath
Ward 2 councillor

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Highlander news

HOLIDAY HOURS

The Highlander

December 26 - Boxing Day Edition
There will be no paper the week of December 30.
The first Highlander of 2014 will be January 9.

Our office in the Village Barn will be **closed from December 23 and will reopen on January 2.**

For urgent news reports, please email
matthew@maplekeymedia.ca.

For business-related issues, please email
bram@maplekeymedia.ca.

Starting January 2, our administrative functions will move to the Echo building; please visit us there for classifieds, bill payments... or just to say hi.

The Echo & Times

Haliburton Echo Christmas Edition - December 24

Minden Times Christmas Edition - December 24

There will be no papers the week of December 30.

The first Echo and Times of 2014 will be January 7 & 8.

Our office in the Echo building will be **closed from December 23 and will reopen on December 30**, closing again for New Year's Day.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM
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File Photo

Reeve Carol Moffatt addresses the media after the MNR announced its plans to relocate their fire management headquarters to Stanhope Airport this past July.

Money flows for airport work at Stanhope

By Lisa Harrison
Contributing writer

The last senior government hurdle has been crossed by Algonquin Highlands in the move to bring the Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) fire management headquarters to the Haliburton/Stanhope Airport.

Reeve Carol Moffatt confirmed the township has received approval from both the federal and provincial governments for a change in scope to a Building Canada Fund grant of \$3.7 million. The grant had been received by the prior council to create a new 4,000-foot

cross-wind runway at the airport. The federal, provincial and municipal governments are each responsible for one-third of the funding.

Approximately \$500,000 of those funds was spent in 2010 to rehabilitate the existing runway as approved in the original grant application. The scope change means the township can now apply the remaining funds to preparing the airport lands for the MNR move from Haliburton, including tree-clearing and demolition or relocation/reconstruction of the existing T-hangar.

Council passed the bylaw authorizing the MNR agreement in November.

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Dysart in brief

Dysart supports extension to Algonquin cottage tenure

Dysart council agreed to support a proposed 21 year extension of the terms of occupancy for some 303 private, non-commercial cottages within the boundaries of Algonquin Park at its December meeting. In a letter from Ontario Parks, the council was asked to submit comment on the proposed tenure extension as part of a public consultation process that is currently taking place. Reeve Murray Fearrey stated that although there are very few properties within the municipality that extend into Algonquin Park, and as such the tenure extension is of little importance financially to Dysart, the decision is very important to the cottage owners. He concluded that it was the council's duty to support the extension. If the final decision goes in favour of the cottagers they will have continued right to exclusively occupy and use the properties within the park's boundaries. The extension does not include potential to grant new cottage lots within the park. Public consultation is open until January 11, 2014.

New equipment for Dysart fire dept

The Fire Association has purchased a portable winch and a piercing nozzle for the Dysart et al Fire Department at a cost of \$4,500. Fire chief Miles Maughan says that the winch will come in very useful when fighting fires on homes with metal roofs – the winch is used to pull off the roof sheets to expose structural timbers within the house.

CIA puts in budget request

Communities In Action (CIA) has tabled a budget request to Dysart council for funds to assist in reprinting the Walk, Ride and Be Active map. First printed in 2006, the map is now out of print and out of date. Sue Shikaze, chair of the CIA committee, told council that the map has received great feedback from users and it has encouraged many visitors and locals to explore the village and its surrounds on foot or bicycle. Council will consider the request for \$400 in its upcoming budget.

Highlander news

Disaster Relief Committee praised for hard work

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

They've been volunteering on Minden Hills' Disaster Relief Committee (DRC) since mid-May.

In that time, they've participated in 23 meetings and helped raise thousands of dollars for the town's residents following the devastating spring flood of 2013.

"This is one of the most amazing groups of people I've worked with," John Rogers, DRC program manager, told councillors during a Dec. 12 regular meeting. "They were so enthusiastic, they were dedicated to the process, and they really understood why they were there and why we are still here."

The DRC, which consists of seven members, was formed on May 17. The group was appointed to raise money for flood victims, as well as process claims and distribute funds.

"There was also an amazing response from the community and beyond regarding the fundraising effort," said Rogers, who pointed out that countless individuals, businesses and organizations also deserved to be thanked.

As of Oct. 31, the DRC's fundraising campaign hit a total of over \$708,000.

"I keep saying to people, here's a community of 5,500 permanent residents that raised \$708,000," he said. "That's amazing. Everyone should be very proud of the effort that went into that fundraising."

Through the Ontario Disaster Relief Program (ODRAP), the DRC was able to

immediately award the maximum amount payable, which was 90 per cent of the eligible claim. Of the 68 claims that were reviewed, nearly \$953,000 has been awarded to affected residents. Almost \$395,000 of that has been paid to claimants with the balance of funds awaiting completion of work or acquisition of goods.

Only 10 claims were found to be ineligible.

As of Dec. 10, 97 per cent of all residential claims and 71 per cent of business claims were reviewed by the committee.

"There will be a final report to the province once the project is completed," said Rogers.

An audit will also be conducted if deemed necessary.

On behalf of council, Minden Hills Reeve Barb Reid thanked Rogers and the DRC for

their work over the past seven months.

"We've thanked you many times and I know we can't thank you enough," said Reid. "Twenty three meetings in a [short] period of time meant a huge demand on your time. We understand it's all on a volunteer basis, and for members of the community to make that kind of commitment is extraordinary and way above and beyond."

Parks and trails get \$25,000 grant

By Lisa Harrison
Contributing writer

Tree plantings, boardwalk repairs and shoreline naturalization for Elvin Johnson Park are among the projects to be funded by a new grant for Algonquin Highlands.

The township will receive \$25,000 from the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund (GLGCF) for improvements at park and trail sites in the Haliburton Highlands Water Trails program run by the township. The improvements are targeted in the Frost Centre area near Dorset because "recreational use of the area provides the greatest potential for impact on area resources" according to the agreement.

The Elvin Johnson Park project, already in the development stage, will receive \$5,000 of the grant. Other projects include 2,000 tree plantings at campsites needing rehabilitation, trail signage, boardwalk

repairs on portages and trails, a vault toilet at Hawk Valley Parkette, boat ramp repairs, and drainage improvements and culverts on ski trails.

The township will match the \$25,000 grant and provide \$20,000 worth of labour, vehicles, equipment and tools in kind. The township hopes to secure the Ministry of Natural Resources Stewardship Ranger teen summer employment program for a second year at a value of \$29,500.

The GLGCF requires participation by at least one community-based organization. An additional \$17,680 value in labour, expertise and some project coordination will be provided by the Ski Friends of the Frost Centre, Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning, Halls and Hawk Lakes Property Owners Association and Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association. Ski Friends also pledged \$500 toward culvert and bridge work.

The total project value is \$117,680.

Reeve Carol Moffatt called the GLGCF "a perfect match" for the township's parks, recreation and trails (PRT) programs. She added the township has "never sought or received more grants" in a prior council term, and credited PRT manager Mark Coleman for many of those. She noted the township must balance seeking grants against the additional work required if successful and she expressed appreciation for the community partners.

The agreement states the Frost Centre area serves thousands of recreational users annually and that the Black and Gull river watersheds originate in the area "with the supply and quality of waters originating here affecting the health of waters in downstream communities and ecosystems."

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Highlander news

10-year plan sheds light on AH municipal assets

By Lisa Harrison
Contributing writer

The first asset management plan prepared for Algonquin Highlands is an eye-opener, according to Reeve Carol Moffatt.

"It's not scary, but it's not great."

The asset management plan (AMP) is a 10-year guideline for managing township assets including buildings, 80 roads, three bridges, the large Dawson Road culvert and other items such as equipment, vehicles, the airport runway and landfill sites. The province now requires AMPs as a condition of eligibility for asset management funding.

Moffatt said the township already tracks its asset management needs but setting them out in a 10-year chart put them in a different perspective. For example, the township has already determined replacement schedules for its trucks but had not seen how that looked for the full fleet on this extended timeline. Under the new Master Fire Plan adopted in 2012, the township is already two years behind in fire services fleet management. Staff worked with Bob Galloway of the Greer Galloway Group (GGG) of Peterborough to complete the AMP. The financial portion was based on projected 2014 costs plus two per cent for each subsequent year. The plan must be updated every three years, and a new plan created in the 10th year. The treasurer said updates will be done annually as part of the budget process.

Galloway told councillors the AMP figures show township's assets are valued at

approximately \$18 million, though staff later indicated that figure may be low. Galloway advised that if the township does everything laid out in the plan, it will run a deficit of more than \$300,000 annually (more than \$450,000 next year without the Dawson Road funding).

Based on a new roads needs study, Galloway listed most of the township's roads in either fair or good condition (ranging from four to 10 on a scale of 10). He said the biggest roads issue was drainage and that staff had requested and received a ditching program plan from GGG. The township's four bridges were also listed as fair to good.

Council and staff discussions included future changes that might need to be made to the AMP due to external financial variables such as the upcoming OPP billing process change and any potential lowering of the federal Gas Tax Fund and/or the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund.

Moffatt said she thought some of the replacement costs in the AMP were "extremely low". She also said she'd like the AMP's introductory narrative changed to better describe the township's rural nature and the challenges it faces to provide minimum asset maintenance, health and safety, good governance and other services with potentially diminishing funding.

Staff confirmed the plan can be altered but it must be formally accessible by Dec. 31 if the township is applying for funding, and must be posted to the township website by May.

Council adopted the AMP.

Irondale fence solution

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

Instead of installing a permanent fence at the Irondale Community Centre, Minden Hills township staff have been advised to install a series of in-ground markers.

During a Dec. 12 meeting, Ivan Ingram, environmental and property operations manager, made a recommendation to council that a tender be issued for the supply and installation of a four foot high chain link fence spanning 500 feet at the community centre.

Ingram received a quote for \$6,500, which didn't include the cost of the removal of an outbuilding and several horseshoe pits, all of which are located on the right of way of Line Drive Road.

The request for the fence came from the members of the community centre's advisory committee.

According to his understanding of the situation, Ingram said the fence is primarily needed for one annual event – a ball tournament. He believed the major concern is that people are parking on the right of way adjacent to private property.

"My personal opinion is that there's no reason why a road fence would not be put up along there, to stop encroachment on to that property," he said.

Minden Hills Reeve Barb Reid asked councillor Jean Neville, who sits on the committee, if the group would be open to a temporary fence.

"The issue is that there's always been controversy as to where the fence is to go," said Neville. "It always causes a lot of animosity."

Reid asked Ingram if permanent posts could be installed instead of a fence.

Ingram said they could, however, motorists and ATVs might end up driving over them which would cause damage to these markers and possibly their vehicles.

"You're leaving liability there," he said.

According to Ingram's report, the township owns the piece of property, which is located in the Municipality of Highlands East.

In response to feedback from council, Reid said that a series of in-ground markers might be a better alternative.

"The in-ground markers wouldn't pose a barrier for any vehicular or pedestrian traffic," she said.

"We can put steel posts in the ground that mark it," responded Ingram. "We can find it with a metal detector if required... we'd definitely define the line."

Council passed a motion to direct staff to install in-ground markers on the right of way adjacent to the property, and that temporary fencing be installed and removed for events.



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Book by Norm Foster
Music & Lyrics by
Leslie Arden

"The Last Resort" is an off-the-wall, madcap, murder mystery musical comedy with book by Norm Foster and music and lyrics by Leslie Arden. A group of apparent strangers are staying the night in Saskatchewan's Last Resort, a hotel in the middle of nowhere that will serve as the perfect hideout for mob informant Nick Galeazzo. On the run with FBI agent Angela Miller, Nick is paranoid and assumes that every other guest in the hotel is out to kill him.



Written and composed by John Gray in collaboration with Eric Peterson. Since its first staging in 1978, Billy Bishop Goes to War has become one of the most popular and oft-produced theatrical works in Canada's history. Anchored by its haunted hero and his clear-eyed memories of war's tragedies and black comedies, this award-winning musical

creation is given extra resonance by songs that are sometimes raucous, sometimes mournful, but always steeped in the realities of wartime. Experience Billy Bishop and connect body and soul with a formative part of Canada's history as the world marks the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.



Andrew Rally seems to have it all: celebrity and acclaim from his starring role in a hit television series; a rich, beautiful girlfriend; a glamorous, devoted agent; the perfect New York apartment; and the chance to play Hamlet in Central Park. There are, however, a couple of glitches in paradise. Andrew's series has been cancelled; his girlfriend is clinging to her virginity with unyielding conviction; and he has no desire to play Hamlet. When Andrew's agent visits him, she reminisces about her brief romance with John Barrymore many years ago. In Andrew's apartment. This prompts a chance to summon Barrymore's ghost. The laughs are nonstop as Andrew wrestles with his conscience, Barrymore, his sword, and his opening night as Hamlet in Central Park.



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Highlander arts

Not for everyone

He could feel the snow on his skin. Trudging to the mailbox meant climbing over the snow cone left by the plow. Despite his boots a dollop of cold slipped in. Eventually he'd have to get out his shovel and clear the snow.

Just the thought of it put William in a bad mood. Damn. There was always something that had to get done. Shovel the driveway. Carry in firewood. Feed the woodstove. Fill the birdfeeders.

The other chores of daily living, such as cooking his own meals, doing his laundry before hanging it about the woodstove, could at least be done in the cozy warmth of his little house. But there were days when cooking and cleaning seemed too much of a burden for William. Those were the days he lived on canned beans, peanut butter and toast. He'd stand in front of the big living room window that Muriel had loved so much and look out at the sea of white.

Jerome the hound, like Muriel, was long gone but his old dog house was still out there, a hump under the snow. Every so often William contemplated getting another dog but it would just mean more chores. He was sick of

chores, tired of the effort of daily living.

It hadn't always been this way for him. When Muriel was there, life had felt lighter, easier. "Come on now William, let's go into town and have a tea and muffin with my sister," she'd say, coaxing him out of his lethargy. Then on the drive she'd point out the beauty of fresh snow, the flash of a blue jay. She had been his winter tonic.

But she had died two years ago, after a short but intense bout with cancer. William had felt blind-sided by life. Their two children lived in other provinces and after coming home for the funeral, returned to their new lives far away. His daughter had invited him to come live with her. "We have lots of room Dad. You could take over the whole basement," she had said, her eyes big and blue like Muriel's.

But no, he had declined with thanks. This little place was his home and he felt Muriel's presence in the furniture, the plants he managed to keep alive, the bed they had picked out together twenty years ago. The memories were bittersweet but he didn't want to leave them.

The mailbox held some store flyers,

Down our Road



By Sharon Lynch

a phone bill and two Christmas cards. One card was from Muriel's sister and William felt a twinge of anger. He hadn't seen her since Muriel's funeral and she had only called him a handful of times. But then his anger was tinged with guilt as he heard Muriel's voice in his head. "The door swings both ways William. Why don't you reach out to her?"

He stuffed the mail into his jacket pocket and climbed back over the snow. By now his socks would be wet. Damn winter, he thought again. And damn Christmas too. He wished he didn't have to put up with all the Christmas garbage. It was constant on his television. For him it was not 'the most wonderful time of the year'.

Muriel always had the house all decked out in December. There'd be lights around her favourite window and every year she'd talk him into cutting a spruce from the back acreage. She'd cover it with years of accumulated ornaments until it shone with colour and light.

He didn't bother now. In fact he'd probably have scrambled eggs and beans for his Christmas dinner. A day like any other. He had sent gift

cards to his children and grandchildren. That was his only concession to the season. He loved them all but they were far away and his heart ached heavily for a past long gone. It was hard to move on without Muriel.

The phone was ringing as William pushed open the door. He didn't rush, knowing he could listen to the message in a minute or so. When he had removed his outdoor clothes, donned dry socks and put the damp ones and his boots by the fire, he listened to the message.

It was Muriel's sister asking him to come for Christmas dinner. William looked at the spot Muriel always had the tree and thought. "Come on now William," she'd say. "You might even enjoy a good meal for a change." So despite his misgivings, he decided to accept the invitation. It would have made Muriel happy.



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Highlander arts



Photos by Matthew Desrosiers

Top: There are no limits to what the arts students can create, as this tentacled one-eyed piece suggests. Far right: Jen Pattinson stands with her ceramic creation, The Joy. Right: Linda Budd-Money inspects an axe created by a blacksmithing student.



A feast of art

By Matthew Desrosiers
Editor

A semester's worth of work was on display at Fleming College's Great Hall over the weekend, as arts students showed their work in the college's annual Wrap It Up event.

Terri Frew, studio technician at the college and one of the event's organizers, said it was the best turn-out yet, with an estimated 300 people coming by to view the work of 43 students. The media on display included painting, drawing, fibre arts, photography, iron sculpture and blacksmithing, ceramics, and mixed media.

"One woman approached me with tears in her eyes to let me know how truly moved she was by the quality and expression of the art," Frew said. "Many [visitors] commented that it was the best show yet."

All of the work on display and for sale was created by the arts students during the fall semester. A similar event will be held on April 19 to showcase the work of the winter semester students. The show will include jewellery, glass, digital media, and mixed media.

Frew said both she and the college are very thankful to the community for participating in the event.

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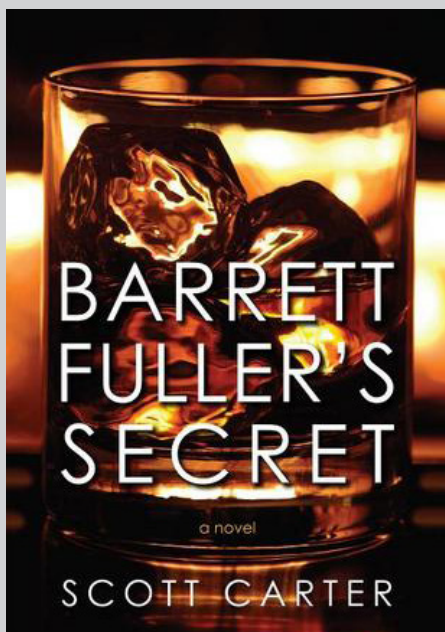
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Highlander arts

Haliburton County's Hot Reads

The following are popular new additions to the Haliburton County Public Library's collection this week.



HCPL's TOP FICTION

1. *Barrett Fuller's Secret* by Scott Carter
2. *Soon* by Charlotte Grimshaw
3. *Command Authority* by Tom Clancy with Mark Greaney

HCPL's TOP NON-FICTION

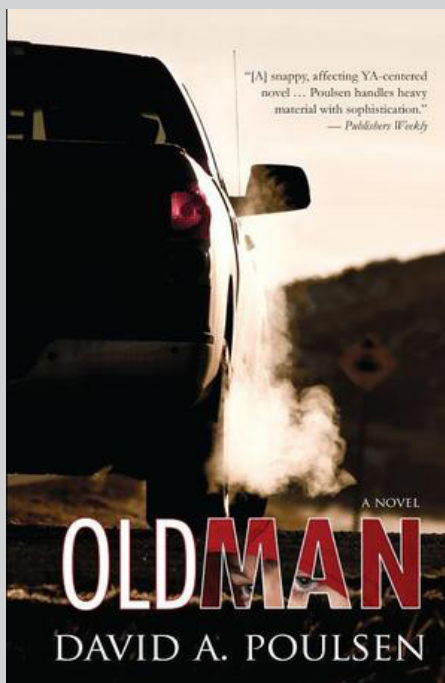
1. *Reluctant Pioneer: how I survived five years in the Canadian bush* by Thomas Osborne
2. *Guinness World Records 2014: gamer's edition*
3. *Lemon-aid New and Used Cars and Trucks 2013* by Phil Edmonston

HCPL's TOP JUNIOR TITLES

1. *Old Man* by David A. Poulsen
2. *Big Book of Why: crazy, cool & outrageous* (JNF)

AUDIO and VIDEO at HCPL

1. *R.E.D. 2* (DVD)
2. *David and Goliath: underdogs, misfits, and the art of battling giants* by Malcolm Gladwell (Book on CD)



Library News: Join us for Holiday Crafts for Kids! Dec. 20 in Minden at 10:30 a.m., and Dec. 21 at 10:30 a.m. in Dysart and Wilberforce. Contact each branch for details. **Holiday Hours:** All branches will be closed on Dec. 24, 25 and 26, Dec. 31, and Jan. 1. The Library Administrative Centre and Dorset Branch will be closed Dec. 24 to Jan. 1. Library services will resume normally on Jan. 2, 2014.

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This past spring rising water of the Gull, Burnt and Irondale rivers threatened the well-being of members of our community.

Even before the water had receded, friends, neighbours and people far beyond Minden Hills were offering assistance. Through the generosity of individuals, businesses and organizations, those impacted by the flooding knew they were not alone.

On behalf of everyone in our community impacted by this past spring's flooding, thank you for your generosity and support offered in so many ways.

Wishing you all the best of the Christmas Season and in the coming year, from the Disaster Relief Committee.

Jeanne Anthon (Chair), Bill Obee (Vice Chair), Jack Brezina (Chair of Fundraising), Larry Grigg, Andrew Hodgson, Shelley Houser and Max Ward

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Wilberforce parade 2013



Photos by Matthew Desrosiers

Wilberforce parade 'biggest ever'

The Santa Claus parade in Wilberforce on Dec. 14 was a fun-filled affair, said Highlands East councillor Joan Barton. She said it was the biggest they'd ever had.

Top: Santa Claus took time out of his busy schedule to visit the kids in Wilberforce. Above: Members of the legion marched proudly in the parade. Left: Two youngsters watch eagerly for Santa as the floats go by.

Wilberforce parade 2013



Photos by Matthew Desrosiers

Top: The Shriners showed their enthusiasm during the parade in Wilberforce. Right: Janet Barker and Lynda Wootton decorated their van for the parade. Above: Trish Byrne and her son Connor watch the model trains go by in the community centre after the parade. The trains belonged to Doug Stephen.

Highlander life

Hogg recalls 36 rewarding years

By Lisa Harrison
Contributing writer

When John Hogg joined the Stanhope fire service as a volunteer 34 years ago, he knew nothing of the battles he would face behind the scenes, let alone on the front line.

Hogg will retire as Algonquin Highlands fire chief on Dec. 31. Hogg is the township's first chief, supervising three station halls with a total of about 50 volunteers, including a station chief and up to four captains at each station. The team works well together now, but that wasn't always the case.

With a bachelor of commerce degree from Queen's University in Kingston and a Master's degree in business administration from York University in Toronto, Hogg started his career working for General Foods and then for Miles Laboratories in finance.

In the early 1970s the Toronto native became a cottager at Maple Lake and partnered with Neil Foster to create Mr. Fogg's restaurant in Carnarvon which they ran for 10 years. In 1979 Hogg began volunteering with the local fire service in Stanhope. A long-time member of the Canadian Ski Patrol, Hogg had the first aid and medical training needed for a first response team.

"My prime responsibility initially was in the first response team – setting that up and running that," says Hogg. "We still did all the other duties, but that was the main emphasis. And medicals then were a major part and now of course they're even more, they're up to 50 to 60 per cent of our calls."

Hogg became station captain in 1985, deputy chief in 1995 and chief in 1998, all volunteer positions. By that time he was semi-retired and able to put in more hours with the service. Two years later Stanhope and Sherborne et al townships amalgamated to become Algonquin Highlands.

Current reeve Carol Moffatt says the council of the time decided not to combine the three

fire stations – Stanhope 80, Dorset 60 and Oxtongue Lake 70. In 2005 the decision was reversed and the township hired Hogg as its first full-time fire services chief from a field of many applicants.

"As first fire chief there was no doubt he would be an agent of change," says Moffatt, who has known Hogg for 22 years.

The three stations had different cultures and they proved to be a combustible mixture. Hogg took the bulk of the heat, including threats, with some extending to council as well, according to Moffatt. It didn't end there. In 2010 the township hired its first full-time training officer to standardize fire services training, and even though the candidate was chosen unanimously, Moffatt says consolidating training was challenging.

"We did lose some long-term firefighters in the process," says Moffatt.

"Amalgamation is a painful process because everybody means well but everybody's perspectives are different... it is work to mold it all together," says Hogg. "It has been painful at times but quite rewarding, and now we have a department [where] all three stations work well together... District chiefs are involved regularly in decision making and the execution of plans and so there's continuity. Everything is automatically built in."

"It's not a question of the chief making everything happen... the firefighters are the heart and soul of the department," Hogg continues. "I would put them up with any other volunteer department I've seen in terms of motivation, of training, and of equipment. Over the years council have been quite cooperative in providing us with the equipment we need."

Hogg says being a firefighter is very rewarding, and it's difficult to pick out specific highlights of the role.

"We have assisted in some rescues and there have been saves made over the years with AEDs (automatic defibrillators). You make



Photo by Lisa Harrison

Algonquin Highlands fire chief John Hogg passes the chief's hat to his successor, Stanhope station chief Keith Thomas. Hogg will retire Dec. 31.

a difference almost every time" even if it's simply by helping family members cope with the situation.

In his role as chief, Hogg is pleased to have implemented the full-time trainer program and developed the township's first Master Fire Plan.

"John's dedication to the job and his time commitment has been remarkable," says Moffatt. Chief administrative officer Angie Bird says Hogg "has achieved much and

overcome even more" and should be very proud.

As for retirement, Hogg says with a smile, "I'm going to start acting my age."

He'll be 72 in a few months. He had planned to spend more time on the slopes with the ski patrol at Sir Sam's Ski and Bike but that time will be curtailed now: wife Julie Chadwick was instrumental in acquiring a new puppy for the household and the golden retriever needs some more training.

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Highlander life



Photos by Angelica Blenich

Volunteer Gord Forbes demolishes what once was a bathroom in the house at 5 Newcastle St. in Minden on Dec. 18. The work was being completed by Places for People to convert the property into a single-family dwelling. The not-for-profit organization recently took possession of the home, their third property in the county.

Renovations begin at latest Places for People home

By Angelica Blenich
Staff writer

The walls are coming down and the garage is no more at 5 Newcastle St., the most recent acquisition by Places for People Haliburton County (P4P).
There was a sense of pride and excitement within the single-family dwelling on Dec. 18, as volunteers worked together to demolish the inside of the property which will be converted into a family home come spring.

The not-for-profit affordable housing organization took possession of the house this week, said Terry Twine, chairman of the property committee and a member of the P4P board of directors.
“The papers were signed this week,” said Twine. “We had been in negotiations with the previous owner ... and here we are.”
The house is the third property acquired by Places for People in Haliburton County, the first in Haliburton and the other in Camarvon. About a dozen volunteers were on hand

on Wednesday to help with the first day of demolition.
The organization hopes to have the house converted over the winter months and ready for a family to move in by April 1.
Measuring just over 1,000 square-feet, the residence will be renovated by Places for People and transformed into a three bedroom house, said Twine.
The organization is currently accepting applications from those interested in moving into the house through their website, www.

placesforpeople.ca.
Places for People will begin interviewing applicants in the new year, said Norris Turner, chairman of the tenant selection and support committee.
“We are excited about this project, it’s the first one we have in Minden,” he said.
The deadline for applications is likely going to be at the end of January 2014, said Turner.
For more information on the organization visit the website or email info@placesforpeople.ca.

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Highlander life

Celebrating the ingredients of life

Highlands cook named in MasterChef Canada top 50

By Matthew Desrosiers
Editor

You never know where the road of life will take you.

When Vicky Rodden's brother-in-law, to whom she was very close, was diagnosed with a terminal illness, she decided to use her talents in the kitchen as a way to comfort him.

"We would have long conversations over a beautiful meal," she said. "[When he was] diagnosed with a terminal illness, as symptoms got worse, the one thing he still had left was he enjoyed having these wonderful meals. I would bring lamb chops over, or broth, and even though he was losing his ability to speak, you could hear him going 'mmm, this is good.'"

He would always tell Rodden she should have her own cooking show.

"After he passed away, it was very hard on me," she said. "There was almost this pull when I saw an ad on CTV and had a

friend call me and say [I] have to try out for [MasterChef Canada]. It was like his spirit was telling me 'you have to go.'"

Rodden tried out for MasterChef Canada and was named one of the top 50 chefs in the country.

"This was so out of my comfort zone. I always played it safe and I realized that we're not going to live forever. [My brother-in-law] was bigger than life. If he could die, anyone could die. There was an urgency to do all the things I put off in the past."

"It's almost like I was meant to do this."

By day, Rodden is a library assistant at the Haliburton branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. She's lived in the village for about 10 years. With her Greek background and deep roots in Mediterranean cuisine, she's ready to make a splash on national TV with her cooking.

"I'm very proud of my Greek heritage," she said. "My forte is Mediterranean cooking, and everyone in my family knew how to cook. You learn how to cook when you're

young."

She likes to take the multicultural aspects of Canadian cuisine and toss in the Greek influence, adding feta cheese and oregano to a Shepherd's Pie, for example.

"I change [the recipes] to what feels good and what tastes good. I guess I put a bit of everything in there."

Rodden's signature dish, Shrimp Victoria, is a shrimp stew with a half cup of wine, oregano, olive oil, lemon juice, and some spices in a broth.

"With this dish you have to use your fingers and a spoon," she explained. "I like when food is finger-licking good. It's an experience."

Auditions were held this fall and Rodden has been filming ever since. As a big fan of larger-than-life celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay, she's excited at the opportunity to be on the show.

"One of the people I look up to and want to

be the female version of is Gordon Ramsay," she said. "Instead of using bad language the way he does in the kitchen, I want to be a nice person. I thought I can do what he does. I can do this."

Rodden is always learning new dishes and feels confident the mystery box, which contains surprise ingredients the chefs have to use on the show, won't cause her too many problems.

"I think my problem might be I get overly confident sometimes," she said. "If I do get nervous, I start singing with what I'm doing."

The chef from Haliburton has received tremendous support from the community.

"My e-mail has been full to capacity twice. Canadians are so wonderful. Haliburtonians are so wonderful. I get so much support."

Tune in to the show on CTV beginning Jan. 20 to support Rodden as she competes to be Canada's MasterChef.

There was an urgency to do all the things I put off in the past. It's almost like I was meant to do this.

Vicky Rodden
Top 50 MasterChef



By Matthew Desrosiers

Toys galore

The Bargain Shop's Christmas toy drive in Haliburton for Point In Time Centre for Children, Youth, and Parents (PinT), came to an end on Dec. 16. According to Gail Stelter of PinT, customers donated \$2,400 in toys, gift cards, socks, watches, and cologne for teens, all from The Bargain Shop. Store manager Steve Davies said the community's support has been outstanding. "Thank you to our customers and staff for promoting [the toy drive] at the cash. We couldn't have done this without either."

Pictured above, PinT staff members receive toy donations from The Bargain Shop's toy drive which concluded on Dec. 16. From left are Lisa Hamilton, PinT manager; Steve Davies, store manager of The Bargain Shop; Cynthia Hutchinson, PinT early interventionist; and Amanda Tripp, PinT family support.

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Highlander sports



Shae MacNaull spikes the ball during a spirited contest against the team from LCVI.

Photo by Warren Riley

HHSS girls volleyball team lose to LCVI

By Warren Riley
Sports writer

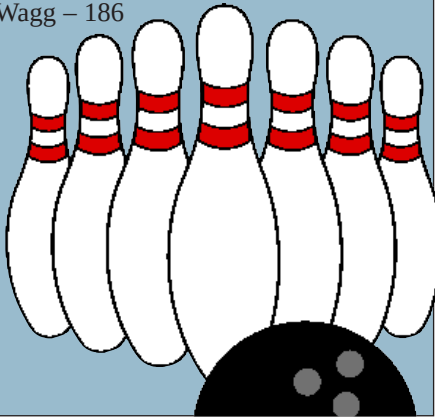
The Lindsay Collegiate and Vocational Institute (LCVI) girls volleyball team had the Red Hawks' number on Dec. 18, as they took home two wins from the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) team. In the first of two games on Dec. 18, the Red Hawks struggled to establish their serve and missed several set-ups, eventually losing 25-8.

Game two was a different story. The Red Hawks came alive, scoring on their serves and defending well, which gave them a much-needed morale boost. Despite their improved effort, it wasn't enough to win the game. The LCVI team took advantage of their off-speed hits that deceived the Red Hawk blockers. The Red Hawks lost 25-17. Coach Steve Smith felt his team did fairly well but were slow to get their act together. "I think the games went well," he said. "The girls progressed on a lot of things they

were working on during practice. In the first game they were kind of late and they always kind of come out slow." "They woke up a little bit after the first game and got a couple of hits in and a couple of serves and they progressed right along. The first game score was kind of low but it wasn't any indication of how well they played at times. They took a little nap half way through the game."

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Highlander sports

Highland Storm Hockey

The Highlander Storm Midget A

Submitted by Wendy Sisson

The Highland Storm's Midget A's, sponsored by The Highlander, had the pleasure of travelling to Parry Sound Friday night and Sunday for back-to-back games. On Friday night, the Storm found themselves down two players and had to make adjustments to their lines. This seemed to give the team a sense of purpose with everyone picking up their game. At the intermission, the Storm led 2-0 in a tight game. Coming out in the third, and down another man, the visitors stormed the home team, scoring four unanswered goals in the first four minutes to take the game 6-0. Sunday saw a near repeat performance. The Storm scored five times, making smart plays and keeping their heads in the game. The buzzer would sound to end the game giving the visiting team another shut-out and a 5-0 victory.

Minden CARQUEST Midget B Girls

Submitted by Dan Marsden

The Highland Storm Minden CARQUEST Midget B girls opened a three-game weekend of hockey Friday night in Minden against the tenacious Keene Wolverines. The Storm girls used an energy-focused attack to elevate their game and capitalized on their chances to defeat Keene. Kelsey Maracle opened the scoring in the first period after the Storm had hemmed Keene in their own end. Sydney Feir finished off a two-on-one with Erin Little in the second period to extend the Storm lead to 2-0. Midway through the third period Alicia McLean finished off a sweet pass with a quick snapshot that beat the Keene tender clean. The Wolverines never gave up and spoiled the shut-out win with 34 seconds left in the game, making the final score 3-1.

On Saturday, the Storm squad travelled to

Whitby to take on the ever-tough Wolves in an evening match-up. The Storm jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the first period with goalmouth scramble goals by Brynn Meyers and Erin Little. Many scoring chances were generated by the Storm but the scrambled style of play, due to Whitby's relentless attack, kept the underestimated Wolves in the game. The Wolves chipped away at the Storm lead and tied the game midway through the third period. In the dying seconds of the game, Whitby continued to pressure the Storm and with less than a minute left scored the game-winning goal from a turnover deep in the Storm end and quick wrister that found its way into the net. Three unanswered goals gave Whitby the 3-2 win, handing the Storm just their third loss of the season.

On Sunday afternoon, the Storm hosted the Cold Creek Comet C club in Haliburton. A truly spirited affair saw the Storm earn a 9-1 win in a lopsided game. Cold Creek lost their goalie to an injury just seconds into the third period with the score 5-0. Both teams agreed to finish the game after a short delay to allow the Comets to replace their goalie with a lineup juggle. The Storm did the same, as Cassidy Garbutt strapped on the goalie rigging and Connor Marsden jumped up on the wing, almost sniping a goal to go with her two-period shut-out. Storm goals went to Alicia McLean, Erin Little, Cassidy Garbutt, Jamie Little (2) and Kelsey Maracle (4). Nice way to finish girls before the winter break, playing hard but having fun.

The Highland Storm midget girls sit in third place with a record of 11-3-3. Recharge over the winter break girls as we get ready to forge ahead into playoff mode and continue to elevate our level of play with focus and energy. Special thanks to Canadian Tire for the early presents of Storm toques and shirts. They will get lots of use as we wrap up our regular season with our five road games in the New Year.

Dollo's Foodland Pee wee A

Submitted by Larry Bukta

Dollo's Foodland's Highland Storm Pee wee A team played South Muskoka in Bracebridge Friday night and showed up short two of their usual 10 skaters. The result against the top team in points in the Muskoka-Parry Sound league was a lacklustre effort ending in a 6-3 loss. The Highland Storm goals game from Owen Gilbert, Lucas Haedicke, and Nick Dollo.

The Highland Storm Pee wee A team travelled to Huntsville on Saturday night for a much more interesting match-up. After watching our Atom A team tie Huntsville in a high-scoring game the Pee wee A's took to the ice for a game that was the complete opposite. These two evenly-matched teams for the second game in a row played to a 0-0 tie that was exciting to watch. The Highland Storm were a little shaky in the first two minutes but cranked up their game with some good shots on goal and despite taking more than their share of penalties continued to play an awesome penalty kill. The second period was an even match-up with solid defence for both teams with neither side able to maintain continuous pressure in the offensive zone. In the third period Owen Gilbert slipped through the Huntsville defence for a breakaway but his shot was stopped by the goalie. The Storm team took a penalty late in the third period giving Huntsville an opportunity but again our team played an excellent penalty kill. With a minute-and-a-half left in the game, however, there was a wild scramble in front of the Storm goal. The Highland Storm defenders frantically but successfully batted away the puck several times until they could finally clear it out of their zone. Storm goalie Carson Sisson played a great game including one stop he made on a Huntsville forward that successfully deked around our defence to put a shot on net from close in.

Smolen Dentistry Bantam A

Submitted by Tammy Smith

The Highland Storm Smolen's Dentistry Bantam A team played their 16th regular season game on Friday in Haliburton and they kept their undefeatable season streak alive as they beat Almaguin 10-0. Parker Smolen made some big saves in the pipes to earn the shut out. Chris Thompson scored a hat trick, Paydon Miscio and Matt Wilbee with two each, while Greg Crofts, Andrew Hall and Josh Boice scored one. Assists went to Chase Burden, Owen Patterson-Smith and Crofts all with two, Nolan Flood, Mark Seville, Owen Smitty Smith, Boice, Miscio, Wilbee, and Thompson with one assist. The Storm's next game is Friday night in Minden at 7 p.m. against Parry Sound.

Tom Prentice Trucking Bantam AE

Submitted by Jon Petrie

Tom Prentice Trucking's Bantam AE Highland Storm hosted the prestigious International Silver Stick Tournament this past weekend in Haliburton. Six evenly matched teams were included this year, which provided for some excellent hockey throughout the weekend. The Storm started early Saturday morning against their long-time rival, the Ennismore Eagles. Alex Petrie got things rolling on the very first shift, scoring on a one-timer from the slot after a nice feed from Alec Stoughton at the side boards. It may have been the early morning start or it could have been some nerves, but Ennismore quickly stormed back to score four unanswered goals. Matt Manning was able to gain a goal back in the third with helpers from Jon Morrison and Carter O'Neill, but Ennismore had control by then and ended up winning 5-2.

Momentum continued to work against the Storm in their second game against Prince Edward County as the Kings took an early two goal lead in a penalty-filled first period. Once they settled down though, the Storm carried the play but were not rewarded for the effort and lost 2-0.

This set up a must-win in every possible way for their final round robin game against the undefeated Lakefield Chiefs. The tournament point system meant that our boys had to not just win the game but win every period to maximize the points needed to get into the semi-finals on Sunday and boy, did they respond.

Devyn Prentice fed Mitchell Billings who strode across the blue line and ripped one top shelf to get things going. Aiden Garbutt's shot from the point found its way through a maze of players to give the squad a two goal lead. In the second, Prentice scored a beautiful goal, using their defence as a screen and wristing one past the Chief 'tender. Goalie Ryan Hannah made some great saves to shut down the Chiefs and finally some spade work by Trevor Turner and Sam Longo helped feed Matt Manning from the point, sealing the win and a spot in the semis against the Huntsville Otters on Sunday in Minden.

It was a frustrating game to watch as an early goal squeaked through to give Huntsville the only goal they would need. The Storm played well though and carried the play for most of the game. Credit goes to the Otter goalie who is the reason our boys were held without a goal. Although there were moments in the early going of the tournament, the Storm deserve credit for playing hard over the four games. If not for some unlucky bounces things may have turned out entirely different which, in the end, makes hockey such a great game to watch and play.

Special thanks go to our manager, Dana Manning, who continues to be a great ambassador for Highland Storm hockey, making all the teams feel welcome and appreciated for participating. Thank you also to the tireless work of Andrea Prentice and all the parents who volunteered.



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Minden Pan Am plans come together

By Lisa Harrison
Contributing writer

The unique support requirements for the Toronto 2015 Pan and Para-Pan American Games in Minden will “necessitate flexible thinking and cooperative action on the part of Games planning partners”.

They will also mean expenses for the county, reported Pat Kennedy, county director of emergency services.

The Minden Wild Water Preserve is one of 109 participating venues and facilities across the Greater Toronto Area and surrounding municipalities. Athletes in the whitewater canoe/kayak events are scheduled to train at the preserve from July 13 to 17 and compete on July 18 and 19, 2015.

While Minden Hills is primarily responsible for development, planning and delivery of services associated with the Games, the county is providing support through public works, emergency

medical services and emergency management. This includes developing a transportation plan, developing consequence management plans, identifying hazards and assessing risk, providing on-site emergency medical services at the athletes’ village and the preserve, and providing social services (evacuation and reception) as part of the County Emergency Management Program.

As well, the county’s tourism department “will be exploring various opportunities to market the area to the national and international media, athletes and visitors attending the Games and the event” at the preserve, Kennedy reported.

A working group formed to develop the transportation plan for the preserve events will meet in mid-January to begin the process of developing the initial draft.

Kennedy said he expects the “hard costs” of providing emergency medical services at the athletes’ village and the event site will be covered, but other costs

such as attendance at numerous meetings will not.

The Games made news recently as the chief executive officer, Ian Troop, was dismissed and replaced by Saad Rafi, Ontario’s Deputy Minister of Health. According to the official Games website, Games capital projects are on time and on or under budget and the board of directors wishes Troop well. Rafi will assume the CEO role on Jan. 6.

“We don’t anticipate any fallout locally” from the changeover, said Kennedy.

The Pan Am Games will take place from July 10 to 26 and the Parapan Am Games will be held from Aug. 7 to 14, 2015. The Games will feature approximately 10,000 athletes, coaches and officials from 41 countries in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean and are being billed as the largest multi-sport event ever hosted in Canada, Kennedy said.



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NOTIFICATION

Habitat Regulations for Protecting Species at Risk

Ontario is fortunate to have a wide variety of plants and animals. Over 200 of these species, however, are currently 'at risk'. One of the key threats to their survival is habitat loss.

Under the Endangered Species Act, 2007, the Government of Ontario has passed habitat regulations for Bogbean Buckwheat, Four-leaved Milkweed, Fowler's Toad, Least Chubtail, Ousewamunga and Rusty-patched Bumble Bee and an amendment to the existing habitat provision for Pale-bellied Frost Lichen. These provisions will help protect and recover these plants and animals. The regulations come into force on January 1, 2014.

Want to know more about habitat regulations or the Endangered Species Act?

Information on the regulations is available on the Environmental Registry of the Government of Ontario website at www.ontario.ca/registry (Registry #011-9021) and on the Species at Risk website at www.ontario.ca/speciesatrisk.

For alternative formats of this information, please e-mail: senh@ontario.ca or call toll-free at 1-800-667-1940.

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NEWS

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Highlander environment

Council votes against solar panels for Minden arena and curling clubs

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

A request to install solar panels on the roofs of the S.G. Nesbitt Community Centre and the curling club in Minden has been denied by council.

By a vote of three to two, council voted in favour of a recommendation made by Darren Levstek, interim director of community services, to deny the request made by Solar Power Network Inc.

"My reason for suggesting that this application be denied falls more in line with the lifespan of the arena itself," Levstek told councillors at a Dec. 12 regular council meeting.

In 2010, the township hired AECOM Canada Architects Ltd. to consult and report on the structural conditions of the arena. The report outlines a number of upgrades that the building requires, the majority of which would need to be completed within five to 10 years.

Levstek learned that the building's lifespan would be 20 years with the recommended upgrades.

"They looked at several things, from the foundation of the building to the ice pad to the roof to the insulation..." he said.

The cost of these upgrades is pegged at \$1.3 million.

"We've only done a few of these things, and we've done them minimally."

The roof was deemed structurally sound, he pointed out.

In 2010, Solar Power Network Inc. offered the township a one-time payment of \$200,000 in exchange for a 20-year, locked-in rental agreement through the Ontario Power Authority's Feed-in Tariff program (FIT).

"That application failed; there was an 80 per cent failure rate last year," explained Levstek. "There are several reasons for those failure rates."

The denial of the application didn't have anything to do with the township, but was more due to changes in the program, said Levstek.

The company returned to the township this past November with a new offer.

"They asked for a simple amendment to this... and wanted us to sign this quickly and pass it back to them so they could submit this once again. I informed them that we had to move through our proper procedures."

The offer has been reduced because leased properties are now being taken on by the FIT program, he said.

"There are several applications going in and because of that the government has lowered the amount that they're willing to award."

The township would have to cover the costs of all future repairs to the arena in the event they fail to honour the 20-year contract, Levstek pointed out.

"If in 15 years our building isn't any good and we have to replace it, or if we have to do work on the roof a second time... all those are costs that we'll have to incur."

In his report, Levstek said that since the agreement requires a 20-year lease, it would be "imprudent" to enter into a contract that the township might not be able to honour.

Councillor Larry Clarke said he wouldn't support the application because of the condition of the roof.

Councillor Ken Redpath wasn't in favour either due to the amount being offered and the condition of the building.

"It's money, but tying ourselves up for 20 years is a long, long time," said Redpath.

Councillor Brigitte Gall asked Levstek if anything else was being done with the arena to generate \$141,000.

"If it's [revenue] not coming in, why would we say no?" asked Gall.

"I would gladly take \$141,000, but the issue is the lease of 20 years and whether council wants to approve a strategic, capital expenditure to ensure that within the next five to 10 years that all of these [repairs] have to be completed," answered Levstek.

Minden Hills Reeve Barb Reid believed that about \$700,000 in repairs have been completed through the rink program.

"I think we need to go back and update this list given what's been done with the rink program," said Reid.

Deputy Reeve Cheryl Murdoch felt that 20 years might be beyond the arena's life expectancy.

"Twenty years is a long time," said Murdoch. "I would hate to be tied up for 20 years if we had a better offer somewhere down the line."

During a recorded vote, Gall and Neville voted against the motion. Councillor Lisa Schell was absent due to a scheduled surgery the day before the meeting.



Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Ave, PO Box 389,
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
(705)457-1740 www.dysartetal.ca



CHRISTMAS TIPS REDUCE – REUSE – RECYCLE



Wrapping paper is not recyclable.



ALL our Landfill sites accept
your used household batteries
and unwanted E-Waste for
recycling **FREE** of charge.



LANDFILL HOLIDAY HOURS



ALL Landfills will be **CLOSED** on Christmas Day and
New Year's Day.
Regular winter hours are in affect for all other days.

Visit www.dysartetal.ca for more information or contact
the Municipal Office.
(Landfill cards must be shown at the gate)

Space provided through a partnership between industry and Ontario
municipalities to support waste diversion programs.

Peace On Earth
Wishing our friends and
neighbours a most harmonious
and joyful season!

Organic Times
134 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden
Just across the bridge
705-286-1424

**CELEBRATE THE
TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS**
at
MINDEN UNITED CHURCH
21 Newcastle Street, Minden

Sunday, Dec. 22nd, 11am
Christmas Service with enthusiastic
instrumentalists,
THE JOYFUL NOISEMAKERS
Sermon - "Receiving God's Promises"

Stay to enjoy our
SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCH

Tuesday, Dec. 24th, 7pm
Christmas Eve Family Service
with lots of familiar carols
Message - "The 4th Magi sips a double-double"
with inspiring candlelight closing

Sunday, Dec. 29th, 11am
Joint Service with Minden, Zion
& Maple Lake United Churches

Rev. Max Ward 705-286-3592
Minden United Church 705-286-1470

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS**

Happy Holidays
from Our Home to Yours

ROYAL HOMES

Your Lot. Your Dream Custom Built Home or Cottage
3kms south of Minden on Hwy 35
705-286-6992 1-888-717-4923
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OFFICE

The Highlander first
issue of 2014 is Jan 9.

Highlander classifieds

SERVICES

SERENDIPITY – Specializing in window cleaning, general repairs and property maintenance, house cleaning, painting and much more! Licensed, insured, member of Haliburton Chamber of Commerce. Reasonable rates and discounts available for seniors and nonprofit organizations. Call for a quote. 705-934-0714. (TFN)

HIGHLAND APPLIANCES

Home Appliance Repairs. All Makes, All Models.

705-457-1048
13 Industrial Park Rd.

DOG GROOMING - Bonnie's Poodles & Doodles – voted groomer, trainer, breeder of top dogs in Canada by Canadian Kennel Club since 1979. Truly a master groomer. Just east of Stanhope Airport Road, Hwy 118. 705-754-1477 (TFN)

SEW BEAT IT!

Custom sewing, gift creations, consultations, alterations/repairs.

Contact Bea
hutch6_47@hotmail.com
705-457-1913

SERVICES

STEP OF GRACE
Get into shape, recover from injury, get back the spring in your step - all at your own pace. Join our small Fit For You classes or pick any of our one-on-one customized programs. Call and book a visit 705-754-5428.

SIMPLY GOOD HOUSEKEEPING – since 1999 that is simply what I do – clean your house so you don't have to. Serving Minden, Haliburton, Bancroft areas. Year-round, seasonal, weekly, biweekly, monthly or as needed. Residential, cottage, commercial. Final clean upon moving. Cottage checks in off-season or as needed. References available. 705-448-1178 dogpawledge@gmail.com. (TFN)

HIGHLAND SERVICES HOME MAINTENANCE & REPAIR – Painting, interior & exterior spraying, staining, dry wall, plumbing, cottage maintenance, subcontracting, driving. Been a busy year, bookings available for fall/winter. Indoor/outdoor storage available. Our quality and commitment sells itself. Haliburton, Minden & surrounding areas. Licensed tradesman. Call Neil at 705-854-1505. (TFN)

SERVICES

FROZEN PIPES? Water lines, septic lines need thawing? Call 705-286-1995. (TFN)

WASH & FOLD plus pickup and delivery service. Small rugs, comforters, large items no problem. Call or text Elaine 705-754-3799 or 705-854-3799 West Guilford Coin Laundry. (DE19)

PARALEGAL SERVICES –small claims, \$25,000. L&T, traffic court, title searches. John Farr, B.A. (Hons.) LL.B – 40 years experience. 705-645-7638 or johnlakeview1@hotmail.com. (TFN)

JUST MOVEMENT FITNESS - winter 2014 fitness session, January 6th - March 21st. MINDEN, & HALIBURTON. Zumba, yoga, pilates, athletic, boxing, bootcamp, strength, core and more. Personal training also available! Contact Meghan Reid 705-455-7270 www.justmovementfitness.com. (JA9)

COMPUTER sales & service. Set up, file transfers, software installation, virus infections, networking, continuous backups, emergency service available. Call The Computer Guy - Dave Spaxman - at 705-286-0007. WE MAKE HOUSE CALLS! (TFN)

SERVICES

NEED A RELIABLE high-tech handyman at budget friendly prices? Superior quality home, cottage and computer services. Call 705-455-2004 to schedule your free estimate before Christmas! (DE19)

FOR RENT

TWO-BEDROOM home in Carnarvon, \$1100 per month includes heat, hydro, snow plowing & lawn maintenance. No smoking, references, first and last. Available Jan 1, call days 705-489-3131 or evenings 705-754-4534. (TFN)

SHOP SPACE OR STORAGE, 800 sq ft on Industrial Park Rd with garage door. \$525/month. Call John 705-457-0701. (DE12)

THREE BEDROOM home, edge of Haliburton Village \$1000/month includes heat & hydro. Call John 705-457-0701. (DE12)

ROOM FOR RENT – shared kitchen, living room, 4 minutes to Minden on Cty Rd 21. 705-286-6978. (TFN)

CARNARVON, BEECH LAKE, 3 bedroom, temporary rental January-May, \$800/mth + utilities. 705-489-1917. (DE26)

FOR RENT

ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT, woodland setting, close to Haliburton village. \$750/mth, includes heat, a/c, hydro, wifi and Bell ExpressVU. Non smoking, references required, plus first & last. Would suit a quiet single or couple. 705-455-9074. (TFN)

BRIGHT, SPACIOUS ONE BEDROOM apartment for rent, newer floors and recently painted. Walking distance to town of Haliburton and all other amenities. Require references, first and last. \$665 + utilities. Contact cclfox427@gmail.com. (DE19)

3 BEDROOM HOUSE in Minden on river. No smoking, no pets. Mature tenants. \$1,100 plus hydro. 705-286-6979. (DE26)

NEW ONE BEDROOM apartment for rent, available immediately, 3km from Haliburton. \$750 inclusive, non-smoking, no pets. First & last month and references required. (TFN)

FOR SALE

SAVE MONEY! Garbage removal, free for any re-sellable items or make a deal to buy furniture, boats, etc. One piece or entire contents, plus small building demolition and take away. 705-448-3920. (TFN)

NICELY CUT & SPLIT FIREWOOD, Dunloe Farms, West Guilford. 705-754-3034. (DE31)

FOR SALE

HONEY FOR SALE – Pure, non-pasteurized honey for sale. Award winning clover, golden rod, honey butters and beeswax available. Eating pure, local honey helps with pollen-based allergies. Call Tom for more info at 705-286-3628 (free weekly delivery to the villages of Minden and Haliburton). (DE19)

PORTABLE FISH HUT for sale. Light weight, relocatable – on skis, SM insulation, fiberglass roof covering, plywood walls, storage under seats, easily heated, reduced for quick sale. Call 705-457-5061. (DE12)

WINTER TIRES, 2 Michelin 225 R70 16, \$75 each. 2 Bridgestone Blizak 245-165 R17, \$100 each. 705-286-4333. (DE19)

GOOD SUPPLY OF freshly packed maple syrup for sale, Waverley Brook Farm, Old Donald Rd. 705-457-2214. (DE26)

SAMONA DRY WALL lift, \$75. 1989 Skidoo MX long track, excellent seat, good track, runs well, \$575. '73 Skidoo hood, skis and engine parts, cheap, 705-457-1307. (DE26)

32" SAMSUNG FLAT SCREEN TV, \$50, 705-489-1109. (DE26)



Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Ave, PO Box 389, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
(705) 457-1740 www.dysartetel.ca



REDUCE – REUSE – RECYCLE



LANDFILL HOLIDAY HOURS
ALL Landfills will be **CLOSED** on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
Regular winter hours are in affect for all other days.

Visit www.dysartetel.ca for more information or contact the Municipal Office.
(Landfill cards must be shown at the gate)

Space provided through a partnership between industry and Ontario municipalities to support waste diversion programs.

SERVICES

Complete Package Care

We offer the best services and pricing that will fit your budget. Call us today for your specialized quote! You won't be sorry you did!

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- Renovations
- Cottage Security
- Cottage/Home cleaning

completepackagecare@hotmail.ca
www.completepackagecare.com

Call Terry Hobden or Carrie Gagliano today

237 Highland Street, Haliburton
705-457-0616 or 705-457-8475

Highlander classifieds

NOTICE

HALIBURTON INDOOR CYCLING & FITNESS STUDIO is moving to a new location. Starting January 2014 we will be offering Bootcamp, Kickboxing, Functional Energy Training, Shaolin Tai Chi, Kettlebells, Chi Cycling & Spin classes. Give the gift of fitness this Christmas with our gift certificates. Check us out on Facebook or text/call for more info. 705-457-7599. (DE19)

CAREERS

CAREER IN REAL ESTATE - Unlimited income potential. Flexible hours. We will train you to make an above-average income in this exciting business. Call for details. Bowes & Cocks Limited, Brokerage. Kate Archer, Broker/Career Coach Direct Line: (705) 930-4040. (TFN)

EVENTS

ALCOHOL PROBLEMS - call Alcoholics Anonymous - we care. 705-324-9900. (TFN)

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS (NA) - every Wednesday, 7-8 p.m. in the Boardroom at the Haliburton Hospital. (TFN)

PETS

ADOPT ME



Very friendly grey tabby is maybe a couple of years old, she has a bob tail and may be a manx cat. She is a very pretty girl.

Haliburton Feed Co.
175 Industrial Rd. 705-457-9776

CHRISTMAS GOODIES

LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL GIFT OR A TREAT FOR YOURSELF?

Find affordable, delicious value in our products made right around the corner in Wilberforce! Ask for butter shortbreads and fruitcakes with the Linkert Country Bakery name at the Algonquin Shriners in Minden, Bancroft and Haliburton, Cranberry Cottage in Haliburton, the Food Hub (Abbey Gardens) and Agnew's in Wilberforce. For more information, call us at 705-448-2455 (1-800-663-0330).

Merry Christmas to all!

NOTICE - PUBLIC HEARING

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF A PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

COMPLETE APPLICATION - RZ 13-08

TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Minden Hills has received a complete application to amend the Township's Zoning By-law. The purpose of the Amendment is to rezone lands located in Part of Lot 24, Concession A, in the geographic Township of Snowdon to a Community Facility exception zone to allow the construction of a retreat by the Apostolic United Assembly Church.

AND PURSUANT to the provisions of the Planning Act, the application file including a site plan and a draft Zoning By-law Amendment is available for review at the Township Office. Please contact Mr. Adam King in the Township's Planning Department if you would like to review this file.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING - RZ 13-08

AND TAKE NOTICE that the Council for The Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a public meeting under Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, C.P. 13 as amended, to inform the public of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment. The purpose of the public meeting is to provide the public with an opportunity to understand and comment on the proposed Amendment.

DATE AND LOCATION OF PUBLIC MEETING

Date: Thursday, January 16, 2014
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Municipal Council Chambers, 7 Milne Street

DETAILS OF THE AMENDMENT

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to establish a site-specific zone exception for lands located in Part of Lot 24, Concession A, in the geographic Township of Snowdon for the purpose of establishing a religious retreat centre. The proposed retreat centre would operate during the summer months and would involve the construction of a building with a proposed floor area of 743 m² (8,000 ft²) which would provide areas for meeting, dining, meal preparation, offices, and recreational space. As part of the complete application, the proponent has provided a planning justification report, which includes a proposed site development plan, as well as a servicing study. These documents are available for the public to review.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND KEY MAP

A key map showing the land to which the proposed amendment applies is provided below.

The purpose of this meeting is to ensure that sufficient information is made available to enable the public to generally understand the amendment that is being considered by Council. Any person who attends the meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the proposed amendment. If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills in respect to the proposed amendment, you must submit a written request (with forwarding addresses) to the Clerk of the Township of Minden Hills.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills before the proposed by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills to the Ontario Municipal Board. If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

Information regarding the proposed Amendment is available to the public for inspection at the Township of Minden Hills Municipal Office located at 7 Milne Street on Monday to Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or by calling Mr. Adam King at (705) 286-1260.



Mailing Date of this Notice:
December 19, 2013
Nancy Wright-Laking -
CAO/Clerk/EDO
Township of Minden Hills

NOTICE OF NOMINATION

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

Notice of Nomination for Office Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s.32)

Notice is hereby given to the Municipal Electors of the
Township of Minden Hills

The Nomination and Campaign Period for the 2014 Election will begin on January 2nd, 2014 in the Township of Minden Hills.

Nominations may be made by completing and filing documents in the office of the Clerk. Nominations must be on the prescribed form and must be accompanied by the prescribed nomination filing fee of \$200.00 for the Head of Council and \$100.00 for all other offices. The filing fee is payable by cash, debit, certified cheque, or money order.

A nomination must be signed by the candidate and may be filed in person or by an agent during regular business hours between January 2, 2014 and September 11, 2014, and between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on September 12, 2014 (Nomination Day).

In the event there are an insufficient number of certified candidates to fill all positions available, nominations will be reopened for the vacant positions only on Wednesday, September, 17, 2014, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. and such additional nominations, if required, may be filed in the office of the Clerk.

Voting Day is Monday, October 27, 2014.

Dated December 19, 2013

Nancy Wright-Laking, Clerk - Township of Minden Hills
Township of Minden Hills
7 Milne Street, PO Box 359
Minden, ON K0M 2K0

Phone: 705-286-1260
Fax: 705-286-4917
Email: election@mindenhills.ca

Highlander events



REMOTE TRANSFER

December 16, 2013

Saddened heart and lasting memories

I wish to start by clearing up a few issues that have been brought to my attention. Previously in the headlines in one of the local papers, it made a reference "New Company Takes over Transportation Services". Remote Transfer is still up and running as usual. We will continue to provide professional private transfers to meet your needs, and the needs of the community. A new company from London, will be servicing the hospitals.

It is with a heavy heart that I wish to say thank you to the hospitals for allowing me to provide non-urgent transfers for over six years. I have learned the importance of just listening to the client. We have transferred many clients and their families, each with different illnesses or reasons, but our staff always provided care from the heart. It saddens me to think about the families and their losses. I may only have met them for a short time but it seemed like we had a lifelong friendship and I feel that is what a small community is all about. Every transfer came with lasting memories of tears shared and of much laughter, and who can forget the coffee and snacks from Tim's around the corner from CT Scan.

It also has been hard for me to have to lay off two of the most kind hearted and dedicated staff anyone could ask for. You were my right arms and I thank you so much words cannot say.

I am also announcing that as of December 31, 2013 at midnight, Remote Transfer will no longer be doing anymore transfers for the hospitals.

If there is anything I can do for the hospitals in the future do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely yours,
Robert Ritchie President/Owner

Remote Transfer | 2463 North Shore Rd, Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1 | 705-754-0707



Photo by James Keller

Isaac Graham as a one of the magi during a church play on Dec. 15.

Tale of a fourth wiseman

Children and youth of the Lakeside Baptist Church took their congregation back to the birth of Jesus as they performed their own version of The Other Wise Man, by Henry Van Dyke.

The kids put on the play during morning worship service on Dec. 15.

The story centres around a fourth wise man

who sells all of his possessions to buy three precious jewels to give to newborn Jesus. The wise man tries to follow his three colleagues but falls behind and spends his whole life looking for Jesus. During his journey, he ends up giving all three of the stones away to people in need.

HELP WANTED OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC Ltd. is looking for an office administrator for our auto body shop. This is a full-time position. The successful candidate will have exceptional telephone and customer communication skills and will be comfortable with various computer software programs.

Candidate must be comfortable dealing with insurance companies ensuring all claims are paid and paperwork completed. Other duties include inventory management, customer after service follow-up and other tasks as necessary.

Please forward resume complete with references to:
Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC Ltd.
5065 County Road 21
PO Box 30, Haliburton ON
K0M 1S0

Resumes can also be dropped off at reception at the above address.
Applications will be closed by close of business Monday January 13, 2014.

EAT! SING! DANCE!
LAUGH! PARTY!
REJOICE! CELEBRATE!

...In other words,

BE MERRY!

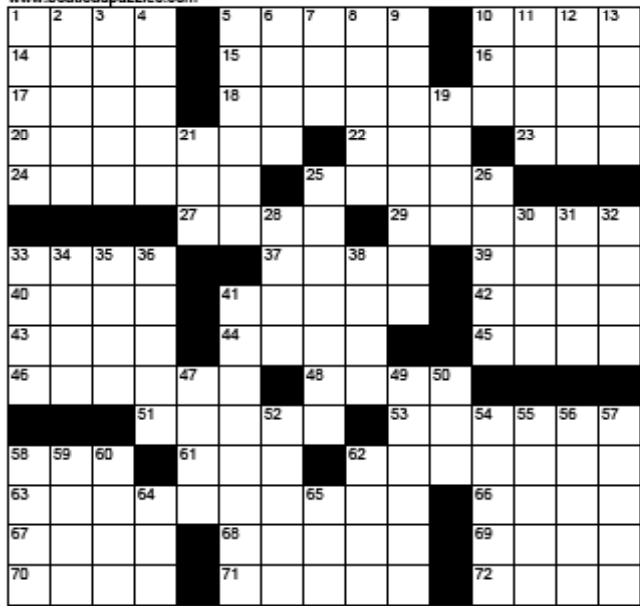
With best wishes to all our good friends at Christmas.
Thank you for your continued patronage.

Minden Wine Store
705-286-1642



Highlander events

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The world's largest supply of crossword puzzles.
www.boatloadpuzzles.com



ACROSS

- 1. Agra attire
- 5. Broad tie
- 10. Quick letter
- 14. Scored on serve
- 15. Glistened
- 16. Poet
- 17. Sniffer
- 18. Slept through winter
- 20. Traitor's crime
- 22. Medical org.
- 23. "You there!"
- 24. Deer's horn
- 25. Out on ____ (2 wds.)
- 27. Left
- 29. Singer Willie ____
- 33. Chef's units (abbr.)
- 37. Jazz great ____ Fitzgerald
- 39. Roof part
- 40. Much (2 wds.)
- 41. Forest path
- 42. Large quantity
- 43. ____ Skywalker
- 44. "Friends" character
- 45. Mailed
- 46. Wrinkle
- 48. Bridge hand
- 51. Shopping reminders
- 53. ____ Anderson of "Baywatch"
- 58. Birthday count
- 61. Large primate
- 62. Food provider
- 63. Lizardlike amphibian
- 66. Peace symbol
- 67. Gifts to charity
- 68. Closes tightly
- 69. Mental image
- 70. Mountain gap
- 71. Fashion
- 72. Average grades

DOWN




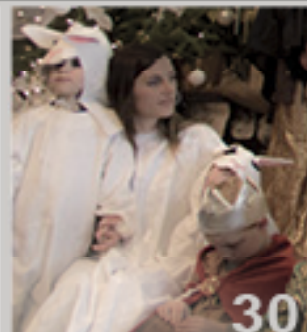
- 1. Mr. Claus
- 2. Squirrel's treat
- 3. Bowler's button
- 4. Utopian
- 5. On land
- 6. Leg part
- 7. Corn holder
- 8. Basketball's Shaquille
- 9. Bus depot
- 10. Heat's league (abbr.)
- 11. Promise
- 12. Yew or willow
- 13. Circular current
- 19. Designate
- 21. Do embroidery
- 25. Books of maps
- 26. Consecrate
- 28. Notorious emperor
- 30. Mall event
- 31. Cookie cooker
- 32. Salamander
- 33. Bath powder
- 34. Insult
- 35. Prod
- 36. Shoplift
- 38. ____ Marie Presley
- 41. Enter illegally
- 47. Thailand, formerly
- 49. Thinly distributed
- 50. Create lace
- 52. Dogma
- 54. Army doctor
- 55. Wear down
- 56. River embankment
- 57. Regions
- 58. PDQ's kin
- 59. Festive occasion
- 60. Stately trees
- 62. ____ phone
- 64. Pack animal
- 65. 24 hours

Last week's puzzle solutions

4	2	8	7	9	5	3	1	6
9	7	6	1	3	2	5	4	8
3	1	5	8	6	4	9	7	2
1	8	4	2	7	3	6	5	9
2	3	9	5	4	6	1	8	7
6	5	7	9	1	8	2	3	4
7	9	2	3	8	1	4	6	5
5	6	1	4	2	7	8	9	3
8	4	3	6	5	9	7	2	1

ONUS	AILS	AGREE
KENO	TRAP	TREAD
REINSTATE	TENSE	
ART	CITED	EATEN
PARER	ANT	
ALPINE	ARID	BRO
SOIL	GLADE	LAB
STELLAR	TEENAGE	
ETC	ARISE	ADES
TOE	CENT	IMPEDE
NRA	ERNIE	
PATIO	FEAST	SSE
ERICS	ARBITRATE	
ACRES	DEBS	ORAL
THERE	EDIT	DIGS

DECEMBER 2013 EVENTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p>Minden Sparks and Brownies meeting, 6-7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Pickleball – Haliburton Highlands Secondary School gym, 7-9:45 p.m. \$4 and must have clean, indoor court or running shoes.</p>	<p>Celebration of Remembrance & Hope at Christmas – St George's Church, 7:30 p.m.</p>		<p>Wilberforce Santa Claus Parade – starting at Wilberforce school and ending the Lloyd Watson Centre, 12:30 p.m. Followed by a party with Santa inside the Community Centre.</p> <p>Turkey-on-a-bun supper – Minden United Church, 5:30 p.m. \$10 adults, \$5 children, under 12 free.</p>
19	20	21	22
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
	<p>Christmas Eve Service – Haliburton United Church, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Free community dinner – Lloyd Watson Community Centre, 2-7 p.m. All are welcome!</p> <p>Free Christmas day dinner – McKeck's, 2-4 p.m. RSVP 705-457-3443.</p>	<p>Become a member of the Highlands Festival Singers. Tuesday, January 7th at 7:30 pm, Haliburton United Church. Open to singers of all ages and abilities. For more information contact HighlandsFestivalSingers@gmail.com.</p>
23	24	25	
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	
	<p>Contemporary music service – Haliburton United Church, 11:15 a.m.</p>		
27	28	29	30

WHAT'S GOING ON AT YOUR LOCAL LEGION DECEMBER 19TH - 25TH

Haliburton Branch (705-457-2571) General meeting, 2 nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Ladies Auxiliary meeting, last Thursday of month, 1 p.m. Meat draw, Friday, 4:30 p.m. 50/50 draw, Saturday, 4 p.m. Breakfast, 2 nd and 4 th Sunday, 9:30-1 p.m. Bid Euchre, Wednesday, 1 p.m. Bingo, Wednesday, 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome!	Minden Branch (705-286-4541) Lunch menu, Monday to Friday, 12-2 p.m. Cribbage, Saturday, 1-3 p.m. Seniors "B-d" Euchre, Tuesday, 1 p.m. Meat Draw, Wednesday, lunchtime Ladies Darts, Thursday, 1 p.m. Euchre, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Fish/Wings & Chips, Friday, 5-7 p.m. Mixed darts, Friday, 7:30 p.m. NFL Sports Day, Sunday, 12-5 p.m.	Wilberforce Branch (705-448-2221) Pool, Friday, 1:30 p.m. Spaghetti diner, Friday, 5-7 p.m. Jam session, Friday, 7 p.m. Everyone welcome! Meat draw, Saturday, 2 p.m. Bid Euchre, Monday, 7 p.m. Early close, Tuesday, 5 p.m. Wednesday - Closed Thursday - Closed
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FUN FACT:

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time television were Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

5				4		2	
	4		1		2		
	2					3	5
7	9	5	8			2	6
1		2			6	7	3
3		8					6
			4		8		7
	1			6			8

What's on

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber
of Commerce presents:



**Nominations
NOW
Open**

Who stands out in your mind as having done an excellent job in 2013?
Nominate them **TODAY** for a 2013 Achievement Award!!

Awards Categories: Business Achievement; Customer First; Entrepreneur of the Year;
Innovation & Creativity; New Business; Not for Profit of the Year; Skilled Trades &
Industry; Tourism & Hospitality; Highlander of the Year

Nomination forms available from:
www.haliburtonchamber.com
lauren@haliburtonchamber.com
705 457-4700

Sponsors: Canoe FM; The Highlander; Moose FM; The Echo; The Times; The Benefits
Coach; Canadian Tire; Patient News; BMO; HCDC; Walker's Heating & Cooling;
Lakeview Motel; County of Haliburton; Moon Shadows Estate Winery, Molly's Bistro



THE COMPUTER GUY

DAVID SPAXMAN

705-286-0007

computerguy@bell.net



I would like to thank all my family, friends &
customers who have supported me over the
first 2 years I've been in business.

I look forward to resolving everyone's
computer problems for many years to come.

**HAVE A MERRY
CHRISTMAS & A
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



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What's on

Food and fellowship at Christmas

By Matthew Desrosiers
Editor

The Christmas meal is as much a part of the holidays as opening gifts, and some would say it's more important.

That's why volunteers in Wilberforce are hosting a free Christmas Day meal for anyone in the county who either has no one to spend the day with, or who wants to spend time with the community and share a meal.

Lynn Binskin said it's the first time she's ever organized something like this.

"Years ago, I remember helping in Toronto," she said. "There was a gentleman

down there who did a lot of street ministry. My husband and I at the time helped him. They would put on dinners."

Although she only helped once, the experience stuck with her.

"It was always something that really worked for me," she said. "It fit for me. I only ever helped them one time but it just got hold of me."

Her son-in-law is very involved in helping with these kinds of community events in Barrie, so Binskin had someone to help her put the dinner in place.

"There's very much a need in Wilberforce and the entire county."

The dinner is not geared just towards

people on the poverty line. Anyone can come and participate in the community meal. Donations are being accepted to the food bank but are not required to eat.

"This is for anybody who wants to come," said Hazel Lanois, Binskin's daughter and fellow organizer. "Whether they are alone or find Christmas a huge strain financially, it's for everyone."

Right now the organizers don't know how many people are going to come, so they're cooking for 300. A chef from Wilberforce has volunteered to cook the meal which will include turkey, ham, and all the fixings.

There will be live music performances through the afternoon, as well as a corner

set up for kids to play and be busy while parents visit with their neighbours.

Lanois said the more people that come, the merrier.

"If you know anybody who is alone or just has nothing going on, anyone is welcome to this. It's whoever wants to come."

The dinner is being held at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre in Wilberforce on Christmas Day, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Binskin said that because they don't know exactly how many people are coming, the sooner people arrive the better. If all goes well, she said this may become an annual event.



Photo by Matthew Desrosiers

Madeline Hopkins and Christine Bishop practice their moves for The Nutcracker.

Dancing for a decade

By Matthew Desrosiers
Editor

It's been 10 years, and still the show goes on.

What's become a county tradition at Christmas time is celebrating a milestone this year, as Heritage Ballet's presentation of The Nutcracker is once more set for the stage.

In honour of this special performance, Heritage Ballet's owner Julie Barban has invited six of her past students who have gone away to post-secondary to return for the show. Those include Tamara Poropat, Loretta Kerr, Nicole Mazara, Jessica Bishop, Kestrel Woodley, and Jordyn Brown.

"It's special because it's the 10th anniversary," Barban said. "That's why I'm doing it later than I normally do. That way [these girls] would be done their exams and be able to come back to be in [the show]."

The Nutcracker performance started 10 years ago, when one of Barban's students offered to help her put on the show.

"She knew it was something I always wanted to do," said Barban.

While some of her choreography has remained the same, the show has continued to evolve over the years.

"Stuff I like I keep re-doing, [but] a lot of it changes because of who I have doing particular roles. The costumes have probably come along more than anything."

Some of the parents have helped create bits and pieces of costumes, while other pieces Barban has purchased from as far away as Russia and China.

"For the most part, everything gets re-used."

The 10th anniversary performance will showcase the talents 78 youngsters from across the county, from ages three to 21, and that doesn't include all the adults.

Most of the kids are students, but the show has really become a community event, Barban said.

"Some of the kids are from the community, because I try to open it to the community and give roles to even the kids that don't dance," she said.

Auditions are held in June, though Barban said no one is turned away. Most of the kids have two or more roles. This year's cast is her biggest so far, she said.

"It's a community thing," said Barban. "It's become a community production."

There are three performances of The Nutcracker, starting on Dec. 21 at 2 p.m., followed by the evening show at 7:30 p.m. at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. The Dec. 22 show at 2 p.m. is sold out, Barban said. Tickets are available for \$15 at Cranberry Cottage in Haliburton, and Minden Pharmasave. Tickets are also available at the door, but Barban said she's unsure how many will be available.

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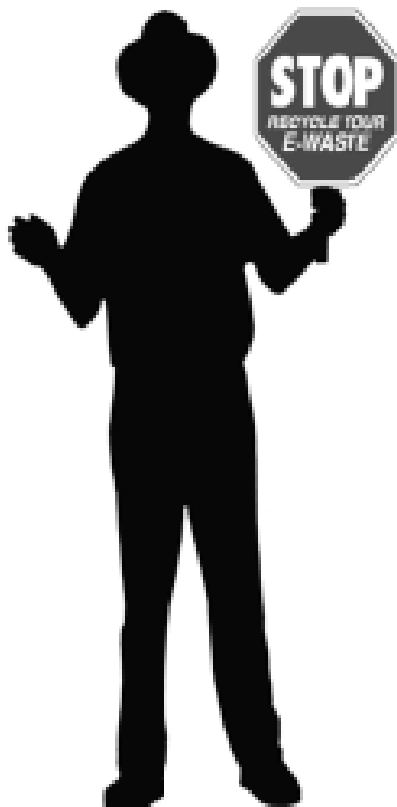
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By Walt Griffin

Filling the church with song

Lochlin United Church opened its door to the community on Dec. 11 for an evening of Christmas Carol sing-alongs.

Pictured above, Harry Morgan leads his team of carollers and the congregation in song. From left are Harry Morgan and Louise Barry.

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